

Rajavi: Khomeini follows Shah

PARIS (R) — Exiled Iranian resistance leader Massoud Rajavi Saturday accused Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of having turned the country into a graveyard for the forces that overthrew the late Shah. In a message issued on the fifth anniversary of the Iranian revolution which he helped to lead, Mr. Rajavi described Ayatollah Khomeini's "dictatorship" as "a natural extension of the Shah's tyranny". He listed Ayatollah Khomeini's record of five years in power as: "Thirty thousand to 40,000 executions, 100,000 political prisoners, half a million killed and half a million maimed in the war (with Iraq), three million war refugees, crippled agriculture, 100 per cent increase in food imports, industrial stagnation, closure of universities, astronomical inflation and more than five million unemployed."

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Abu Jihad leaves for Tunisia

AMMAN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Deputy Commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) left Amman Saturday for talks in Tunis on future strategy of the PLO and its biggest commando group, Fateh. Abu Jihad told Reuters that PLO leader Yasser Arafat was still expected to visit Amman shortly for talks with His Majesty King Hussein on a possible joint approach to Middle East peace.

Ghali ends African visit

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali returned Saturday from a four-day trip to Addis Ababa, Djibouti and Khartoum. He said his talks had centred on co-ordination ahead of a meeting of foreign ministers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) due to be held in the Ethiopian capital on Feb. 27.

GCC chiefs-of-staff to meet Monday

BAHRAIN (R) — The chiefs-of-staff of the six member countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) will start a three-day meeting in Doha on Monday, the official Gulf News Agency (GNA) said Saturday. The agency gave no further details.

Evren to visit Riyadh this week

RIYADH (R) — Turkish President Kenan Evren is expected to pay a five-day official visit to Saudi Arabia starting next week, Turkish embassy officials said Saturday. They said General Evren's talks with Saudi leaders would cover ways to develop trade and commercial ties, the Iran-Iraq war and the latest Middle East developments.

Student unions banned in Sind

KARACHI (R) — Martial law authorities in Pakistan's southern province of Sind, scene of violent anti-government protests last year, Saturday banned all student unions there. The ban, coming two days after a similar step in the Punjab province, was the latest step in a government crackdown on student groups. Sind Military Governor Lieutenant-General S.M. Abbasi issued the ban in the provincial capital of Karachi, ordering all union offices to be sealed and all funds impounded, the official APP news agency reported.

Israeli checkpoints remain closed

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli border checkpoints with Lebanon failed to re-open as scheduled Saturday because of a labour dispute, an Interior Ministry spokesman said. Border inspectors demanded special payments which the ministry is not prepared to pay, the spokesman said. Earlier, the ministry said the crossing points would re-open after the Jewish Sabbath to enable foreigners to enter Israel from Lebanon.

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Rivals reject Gemayel's bid to revive peace talks

BEIRUT (R) — President Amin Gemayel tried Saturday to arrange a four-nation meeting to save Lebanon from sliding farther and faster towards civil war, but two senior opposition figures said his time had run out.

Mr. Gemayel met senior aides at the presidential palace to try to set up a joint meeting of Syrian, American, Saudi and Lebanese foreign ministers, official sources said.

But Nabih Berri, leader of the powerful Shi'ite "Amal" (hope) movement, said Mr. Gemayel had to resign to pave the way for reconciliation of Lebanon's warring factions, and a senior Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader said the predominantly Druze PSP would not give him another chance.

Mr. Berri told Reuters he wanted the president to step down because he had failed to unite the country and had run out of friends. "One year ago all political leaders supported Gemayel," Mr. Berri said. "Now he has no friends (in Lebanon), and I ask myself whether he has any friends in the world."

Beirut evacuation nears end

BEIRUT (AP) — Mortar shell and sniper fire disrupted the evacuation of Americans from strife-torn Beirut Saturday. One woman suffered a slight wound from a ricocheting bullet before hundreds of evacuees were airlifted to U.S. warships offshore.

Machinegun bursts rattled in the distance as French and Italian troops escorted hundreds of foreign nationals in separate truck convoys across the green line out of Beirut's mainly Muslim western sector.

They boarded landing craft at the port of Jounieh 20 kilometres north of the Lebanese capital.

Also Saturday, French soldiers of the Multi-National Force (MNF) re-opened the med-city museum crossing to two-way traffic for the first time since all connections between Beirut's eastern and western halves were closed by fighting on Monday.

French soldiers manned barbed wire checkpoints at the museum intersection as the state radio said a huge convoy of food and fuel supplies was ready to cross the green line from the predominantly Christian eastern sector to ease acute shortages in west Beirut.

U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew chatted with reporters in front of the U.S. embassy on west Beirut's sea front "Ein Merisse corniche. He came out of the seven-story Duraford Building twice, first after two shells crashed nearby and the second after the ricocheting sniper bullet grazed below the right ear of a woman evacuee.

The woman's white blouse was splattered with blood as she was taken on a stretcher aboard the first CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter that started off the second and last day of the American evacuation operation at 1248 p.m. (1048 GMT). 48 minutes behind schedule.

U.S. Embassy Press Secretary John Stewart said the woman was believed to be British. He gave no other information on her.

The evacuees were mostly Americans, but included many other nationalities such as Canadians, Australians, French, German, a Nigerian diplomat, one Japanese and a group of Maldivian students.

The last departing group had six people in it. Four were the family of Osman Zeinul, a Lebanese businessman, and one was Hassan Harakeh, a Lebanese cameraman for the American television network CBS who was wounded several days ago and still had five pieces of shrapnel in his arm.

5 Italian ships head for Lebanon; U.S. evacuees arrive off Cyprus, page 2

Marwan Hamade, a close aide of PSP leader Walid Junblatt, told a news conference that Mr. Junblatt would not co-operate with the president again "because of what happened in the mountains and Beirut."

Mr. Hamade was referring to warfare in the Shouf mountains between the PSP and the army which has raged for months, and to the army takeover of west Beirut last summer and its subsequent tight grip on the mainly Muslim part of the city.

Opposition figures have constantly accused Mr. Gemayel and his government of using the army for political ends, supporting only the Maronite Christian community.

Amal and leftist militias early this week wrested back control of west Beirut from the army in a bloody 17-hour battle.

Mr. Gemayel, who has made no

public statement since the takeover, conferred Saturday with Foreign Minister Elie Salem, National Security Adviser Wadie Haddad and Saudi-Lebanese businessman Rafiq Al Hariri, a veteran mediator.

Official sources at the presidential palace said Mr. Gemayel hoped to set up the four-nation talks as a prelude to a second round of the Geneva reconciliation talks, started in late October and adjourned after a few days.

Saudi Arabia was co-operating in trying to get Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam to the conference table, the sources said.

Sporadic battles, involving tanks, machine-guns and small arms, were reported Saturday from most traditional trouble spots, including the "green line" dividing Beirut. Security sources dialogue as the only means for a settlement.

Lebanese army and leftist militia sources said an agreement had been worked out for the withdrawal of an army unit and its replacement by French troops at

one place on the "green line" to provide a safe crossing point.

For the first time since Monday newspapers published in east Beirut were available on the west side of the line. They contained many photographs of buildings in the east which had been heavily damaged in recent shelling from PSP-held areas.

Beirut has been split in two since Tuesday. Opposition leaders including Mr. Berri Saturday accused the government of trying to apply social and economic pressure by starving west Beirut of flour, fruit and vegetables, and oxygen for hospitals.

A PSP source said that heavy shelling of mountain areas this week by the battleship New Jersey and other U.S. warships had killed 24 people and wounded 150. One Druze village was destroyed, he said.

Syrian Television Saturday night showed pictures of huge craters caused by the U.S. shelling in Syrian-held eastern Lebanon.

U.S. ready to bolster Lebanese army; Shamir warns against abrogation of May 17 pact, page 2

Iraq launches threatened missile attack on Dezful

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Saturday its military forces have attacked the oil-rich southern Iranian city of Dezful in fulfilment of a threat made nine days ago in the Gulf war between the two states.

"Selected targets in Dezful were attacked this morning," an official Iraqi military spokesman reported. He did not elaborate how the attack was carried out or say what types of weapons were involved.

Dezful is some 80 kilometres from the border between the two states.

A few hours after the attack on Dezful, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein presided over a meeting of his military command, the Iraqi

News Agency (INA) reported from Baghdad.

It said the meeting was attended by Defence Minister Adnan Kharrabi and the state minister for military affairs, Abdul Jabbar Shanshal, who was military chief-of-staff until his recent transfer.

Meanwhile, Iran said it would shell three Iraqi border towns Sunday in retaliation for Saturday's missile strikes on Dezful which left at least five people dead and more than 100 injured.

A military official in an unscheduled broadcast on Tehran Radio said the populations of the Iraqi towns of Khanaqin, Mandali and Basra, earlier warned to evacuate their homes immediately,

had been given additional time to seek safety.

Tehran Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said five missiles hit Dezful, killing at least five people, wounding over 100 and causing heavy damage. Rescue operations were continuing, the radio added.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Iran's President Ali Khamenei Saturday as having ordered retaliatory bombardments of Basra, Mandali and Khanaqin.

Basra, with a population of around 500,000, is an oil port at the head of the Gulf opposite the Iranian oil town of Abadan. Mandali and Khanaqin are border towns northeast of Baghdad.

Mubarak leaves Paris for Washington

PARIS (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak left for Washington Saturday after a 24-hour visit during which he and French President Francois Mitterrand apparently decided not to revise a Middle-East peace plan for the Middle East.

Asked whether the joint peace proposal first put before the U.N. Security Council in July 1982 would be re-initiated, Mr. Mubarak said: "not now."

The Egyptian president called the proposal "a very good initiative" after his 90-minute meeting with Mr. Mitterrand. The peace plan calls for Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to recognise each other.

French officials earlier had indicated France did not feel it was timely to revise the peace ini-

tiative because of the crisis in Lebanon.

Mr. Mubarak said he and Mr. Mitterrand discussed ways to "promote an overall settlement in the Middle East." He said such a settlement could not be worked out "without starting by solving the Palestinian question, because that is the heart of the problem."

The situation in Lebanon, the Palestinian problem, the Iran-Iraq war and the civil war in Chad also were discussed during the meeting, Mr. Mubarak said. He described the talks as "warm and particularly friendly."

France has said it has no immediate plans to withdraw its troops in the Multi-National Force (MNF) in Beirut despite a pull-back by the other three member countries, the United States, Bri-

tain and Italy.

But Paris is stepping up efforts at the U.N. Security Council to win agreement on the despatch of U.N. troops to replace the MNF. Informed French sources said France did not regard revival of the Franco-Egyptian peace plan as its immediate priority and it was more preoccupied with the crisis in Lebanon.

Mr. Mubarak was asked how the Franco-Egyptian plan stood in relation to the 1979 Camp David treaty between Egypt and Israel, which led to Egypt being ostracised by most Arab states until recent months.

"The peace treaty is the peace treaty. Do you want nothing to be done apart from that?" said Mr. Mubarak, adding: "The peace treaty is going ahead."

U.S. official urges quicker Marine withdrawal

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan, facing widespread violence in Lebanon and a political rebellion at home, "can and should" withdraw all but about 200 U.S. Marines from Beirut quickly, perhaps within a month, a senior administration official said Friday.

The official, who spoke only on condition that he not be identified, also expressed optimism that President Amin Gemayel would be able to remain in office despite the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, and that Syrian authorities backing Lebanese opposition forces are showing signs of willingness to negotiate.

Meanwhile, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger gave Mr. Reagan, vacationing in California, a proposed timetable for "withdrawal of Marines from Beirut."

But Deputy White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes said in a statement that Mr. Reagan directed

consultations take place with the Lebanese government and other members of the Multi-National Force (MNF) before making a decision on whether to proceed with Mr. Weinberger's plan.

The pressure on Mr. Reagan to hasten the Marines' redeployment intensified when Senator Paul Laxalt, chairman of Mr. Reagan's re-election committee, said in an interview with the Associated Press reported that the Marines should be removed as quickly as possible from the entire region, not merely from the ground in Beirut.

Mr. Laxalt, who is regarded as the president's closest and most loyal ally in Congress, had been a strong advocate of the Marine presence in Beirut. But he said in the AP interview, that the Marines' mission has been frustrated and that they should be pulled back far from the region.

Mr. Reagan announced Tuesday that the bulk of the Marine peacekeeping force would be transferred gradually to the offshore vessels, but Mr. Laxalt said those ships might not be safe enough.

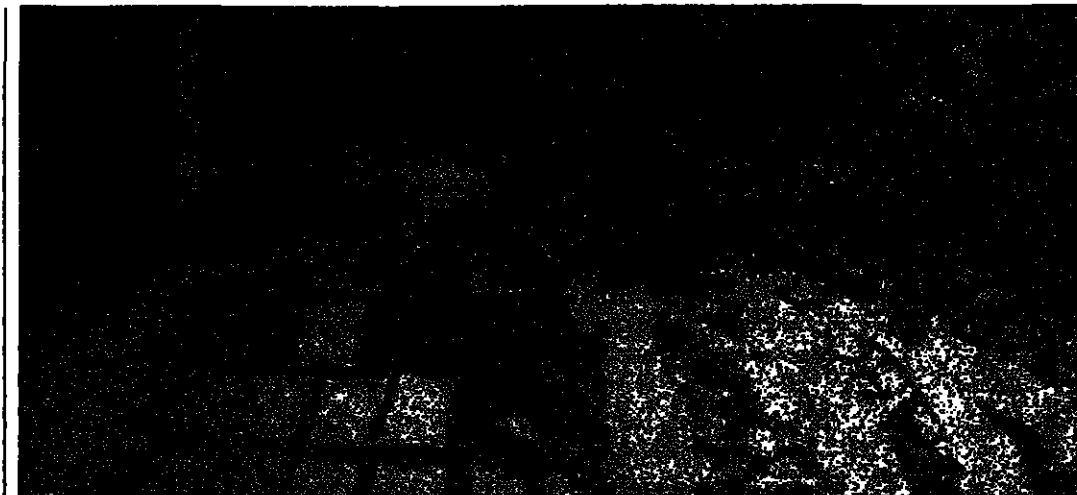
Since Tuesday, administration officials have given a variety of estimates about how long the Marine redeployment would take, from a month for 500 troops to four months for all of the 1,200 to 1,300 troops stationed in Beirut.

"Earlier pullback possible"

But on Friday, the senior administration official told reporters from the AP, United Press International and Reuters news agencies that militarily, the pullback could be completed within a few weeks, depending on the political and military situation in Beirut.

Asked about conflicting reports from other officials about the timetable, this official said:

"The original forecast that this



The body of Soviet President Yuri Andropov, who died last Thursday, lies in state Saturday (AP wirephoto)

Soviets mourn Andropov, await next Kremlin chief

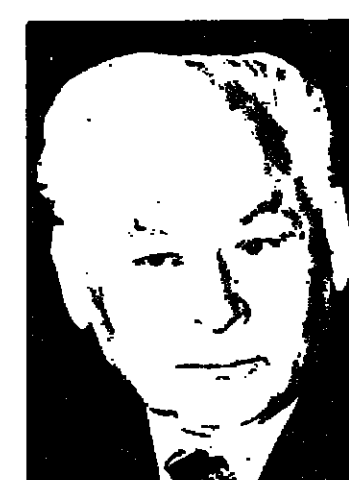
MOSCOW (R) — Funeral decorations appeared on government buildings Saturday as the Soviet Union began four days of mourning for President Yuri Andropov amid growing speculation over who might succeed him.

Mr. Andropov died on Thursday aged 69 of a kidney ailment, complicated by diabetes, after just 15 months in power. He is due to be buried on Tuesday, probably at a traditional site behind Lenin's Mausoleum in Red Square.

His funeral is set to become a high-level international gathering at which foreign leaders will try to make contact with the new Kremlin ruler.

In California, President Reagan, taking a short holiday before his gruelling election year schedule, said in his first statement on the Soviet leadership transition that Mr. Andropov's death should be followed by new efforts for détente.

Clues as to who might become Communist Party secretary general have so far been scarce, though some analysts felt the choice of Politburo member Konstantin Chernenko as chairman of the



Konstantin Chernenko

Andropov funeral commission provided some indication.

Mr. Andropov was given the same role for the funeral of Leonid Brezhnev in November, 1982, and shortly afterward became secretary general. He took over the Soviet presidency last June.

Senior members of the Communist Party Central Committee began meeting Saturday at the

Kremlin to begin the selection process. Soviet sources said. But they added a full committee plenum would not be held until Monday to make the final choice.

Mr. Chernenko, 72, who was Mr. Andropov's closest rival for the top party job in 1982, was shown on state television leading the Politburo and Central Committee Secretariat members into Moscow's Hall of Columns to pay respects to the late leader.

Mr. Andropov's body was laid out in an open coffin piled high with flowers and wreaths up to his chest.

Following Mr. Chernenko into the hall were veteran Politburo members — Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov, Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov, Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Moscow party chief Viktor Grishin.

They and younger members such as Mikhail Gorbachov and Grigory Romanov have all been

(Continued on page 3)

Moscow prepares for Andropov's funeral; U.S. hopes for thaw in relations, page 8

Jordan sends condolences to USSR

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent a cable to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR expressing his condolences and that of the Jordanian people and government on the death of Soviet President Yuri V. Andropov.

In his cable, King Hussein paid tribute to the late president for his continued endeavours to bolster Jordanian-Soviet ties of friendship and for strengthening bilateral relations in various fields in the interest of both peoples, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

King Hussein also voiced the Arab Nation's deep appreciation for the firm Soviet stand in supporting Arab causes, particularly the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland and their right to self-determination. Petra said.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, also sent a similar cable to the Soviet leadership expressing condolences on the death of President Andropov.

An official Jordanian delegation is expected to take part in the funeral of Mr. Andropov scheduled to take place on Tuesday. The delegation, which will be led

by Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, will include Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb.

Meanwhile messages of condolences over Mr. Andropov's death poured into Moscow Saturday.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar sent a message of condolences to Kremlin on the death of President Andropov, praising him for his "fervent commitment to work for world peace."

The United Nations flag on the headquarters grounds flew at half staff Friday in memory of Mr. Andropov.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz have expressed their personal condolences over the death of the Soviet leader and voiced hope the new Moscow leadership will join the United States in striving "to make the world a safer place."

Vice-President George Bush was designated to represent the United States at Mr. Andropov's funeral in Moscow on Tuesday (See story on page 8).

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent a cable Saturday to the Soviet Communist Party Politburo expressing profound grief and sorrow at the death of the Soviet president.

Baghdad and Moscow are bound by a 15-year treaty of friendship and co-operation signed in 1972 and the Soviets are major suppliers of equipment for Iraq in its 4½-month-old war with Iran.

"We have received together with our comrades at the government and (Arab Baath Socialist) Party in Iraq with profound grief and sorrow the news of the death of comrade Yuri Andropov," the message said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is sending a three-man delegation, led by presidential assistant Mamdouh Salem, to Moscow to attend Mr. Andropov's funeral.

Mr. Salem was prime minister under the late President Anwar Sadat who was assassinated in 1981.

World leaders express regret, hope for new era, page 8

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS IN AMMAN

announces with deep regret and profound grief that

YURI VLADIMIROVICH ANDROPOV

General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, died after a long illness on Feb. 9, 1984.

The embassy announces that the register of condolences will be opened at the office of the embassy on Sunday and Monday, Feb. 12 and 13, 1984 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Five Italian ships leave for Lebanon

ROME (AP) — Italy's Defence Ministry announced Friday that five ships left Wednesday for Lebanon to assist in "the operative needs" of Italian troops in Beirut.

In addition, three merchant ships will be sent at a later date to Lebanon "for the transport of materials," the Defence Ministry said. It gave no date for the merchant ships' departure.

Defence Ministry officials contacted by telephone refused further comment on the brief announcement, which did not say whether Italy's 1,400 troops in Beirut would be redeployed on the ships, or what kind of materials would be transported on the merchant vessels.

Italy's Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini on Wednesday ordered the country's military chi-

efs of staff to take "all necessary steps" for a gradual withdrawal of Italian forces, but set no timetable for a pullout. The original force of 2,100 men was recently reduced by one-third.

"The ships... are proceeding toward Beirut to accomplish tasks connected to the eventual operative needs of our peace contingent," the Defence Ministry said.

The statement said the battle cruisers "Vittorio Veneto" and "Doria," the torpedo-boat destroyer "Audace," the frigate "Sagittario" and the support ship "Stromboli" left from waters west

of the island of Sardinia and were proceeding in "unfavourable conditions" toward Lebanon.

The ministry said that four additional ships already stationed in waters off the coast of Lebanon "are capable, in emergency conditions, of embarking all the (Italian) military personnel in Beirut."

The ministry also reported that another Italian soldier had been hit by stray gunfire in the Lebanese capital, bringing the number of wounded to 12 since last Monday.

The announcement came hours after the U.S. embassy contested Italian media reports that the withdrawal of American troops constituted an "abandonment" or remaining Multi-National Forces or of Lebanon's government.



Marines evacuating American civilians from Lebanon to U.S. ships off Beirut coast (AP wirephoto)

American evacuees arrive off Cyprus

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — Two U.S. Sixth Fleet warships carrying American evacuees from war-ravaged Beirut arrived off this south coast Cyprus port Saturday.

The second stage of the mass evacuation of U.S. citizens, the ferrying of the evacuees from the warships to shore by helicopters, was expected to get under way shortly.

The plan was for the evacuees to be airlifted to Larnaca Airport by the sparkling blue waters of the Mediterranean.

From there they would be transferred four miles by bus to the Karpasiana beachside hotel where the U.S. embassy has set up a processing center.

"Some of the 500 odd evacuees may want to stay on in Cyprus for a while, others may want to return

home. We will try to make arrangements for all of them according to their wishes," said Dan Howard, the embassy press officer.

There was an air of tranquility at Larnaca on a warm sunny cloudless day. The heavy storm and rough seas of the previous days that had prevented ships from picking up the evacuees directly from Lebanese ports the previous day had subsided with only gentle waves lapping the shore next to the airport runway.

The scene would provide a welcome contrast for the evacuees whose last memory of Beirut as they left Friday was one of a city still shaken by the rumble of artillery and the crackle of small arms fire.

Kuwait bomb trial opens amid security

KUWAIT (R) — The trial of 25 people accused of involvement in a wave of bomb blasts which shook Kuwait in December opened Saturday amid tight security and threats of further attacks on Kuwaiti interests.

The Dec. 12 bomb attacks, which hit the embassies of the United States and France, the International Airport and other government installations, left six people dead and 86 injured.

The defendants number 17 Iraqis, three Lebanese, three Kuwaitis and two men described as stateless. Four of them are being tried in absentia.

As the 21 in court smiled and chatted amongst themselves inside an iron cage, Judge Ghazi Al Samar read out the indictments. He added the charge of trying to overthrow by force "the political

basis of the Kuwaiti government" to counts of murder or attempted murder.

Nineteen of the accused could be executed if convicted.

The hearing in a partially-completed girls' school on the outskirts of Kuwait City was open for the first hour but then went into closed session after consultations between the judge and the prosecution.

Hundreds of armed police on foot and in armoured cars cordoned off the area 15 kilometres from Kuwait City as the defendants were brought to the court from the nearby Central Prison.

Barricades were erected on the main road to the school and all unauthorised people were barred from the area.

The Kuwaiti authorities have said the accused are members of

Al Dawa Al Islamiya (Islamic Call), an extremist Muslim organisation seeking an Iranian regime in Iraq.

An Iraqi opposition group based in Iran said Saturday it has the right to endanger Kuwaiti interests anywhere in the world. Kuwait did not allow foreign lawyers to represent the defendants.

There was no immediate reaction to the statement, but Kuwait's ruler Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah said last month after closing earlier threats that the country would not bow to terrorism or those who stood behind it.

Although Iran has not been mentioned in official statements here on the bomb attacks, Tehran has said a number of Iranians have been deported from Kuwait after the blasts.

Greece releases 14 Turks pending trial

ATHENS (AP) — Fourteen left-wing Turkish political refugees who briefly occupied the Turkish Airlines offices in the Greek capital on Thursday were set free Friday pending their trial by a misdemeanors court, police said.

A police spokesman said the 14 Turks, all members of leftwing and Kurdish separatist organisations banned in Turkey, would go on trial here on April 5, charged with forcing an entry and resisting authority.

The political refugees, who were detained overnight at Athens Security Police Headquarters, were released after they were charged at a hearing before an Athens public prosecutor.

They returned to the United Nations Centre for Political Refugees at Lavrion, 65 kilometres from Athens where they were staying, the police spokesman said.

The unarmed refugees, wearing red masks, rushed into the Turkish Air Lines offices in downtown Athens Thursday noon.

7 workers missing after rebel attack in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Seven foreigners with a French company working on the Jonglei Canal scheme in southern Sudan were missing following a rebel attack on their camp Friday, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Saturday.

The agency quoted what it called an authoritative official source as saying: "outlaws Friday morning attacked the company's camp at Sobat, Upper Nile region of southern Sudan, but were confronted and defeated by the Sudanese Armed Forces who inflicted heavy losses on them."

Foreign workers at the camp were evacuated to Khartoum but seven of them were missing and troops were looking for them, the source said. The nationalities or names of those missing were not given.

The incident is the second rebel attack in the southern region, where three foreign workers of U.S. Chevron Oil Company were killed on Feb. 2 in a similar attack, after which Chevron suspended

exploration at some sites in the area.

Some Libyan and Ethiopian soldiers were found among the dead and some other Libyan and Ethiopian soldiers were taken prisoners," SUNA quoted the source as saying.

He added "army troops were engaged in fierce fighting with the rebels."

Sudan has repeatedly accused Libya and Ethiopia of inciting rebellion in southern Sudan.

The Jonglei Canal, an ambitious Sudanese-Egyptian joint venture to increase Nile water storage, and the Chevron oil operations have been frequent targets of Southern rebels.

Southern Sudan, a vast region of swamps and virgin land, has been the scene of frequent fighting, including a civil war which ended in 1971 following agreement to grant it autonomy.

But there have been a growing number of clashes with rebels seeking complete secession from the central government in Khartoum.

U.S. ready to bolster Lebanese army

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger told Congress this week that the United States stands ready to help bolster the government of Lebanon's fighting forces, when the time is appropriate.

Testifying before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee Feb. 9, Mr. Weinberger stated: "When the government of Lebanon is able to reconstitute itself in a broadly-based representative government, we are prepared to speed up support for the Lebanese Armed Forces through accelerated training and provision of equipment."

Secretary Weinberger spoke to the committee at length about world-wide security needs and projected U.S. responses.

Following are Middle East-related excerpts from his presentation:

The Middle East remains one of the most critical and volatile regions for world peace. The Lebanese situation is, of course, discouraging and unpredictable. Prospects for early reconciliation among all internal factions and foreign forces remain dim. The Lebanese crisis is, at least, nine years old and we are always concerned that violence there could

spill over into a larger regional conflict.

The conflict in Central America causes us great concern. The national bipartisan commission report recommends a substantial infusion of economic and military assistance to turn back the tide of violence in the region.

There are many other pressing requirements around the world that will require significant assistance from the United States. But Lebanon and Central America are the most worrisome.

In the past nine years, Lebanon has lived through a ceaseless tragedy. In the past weeks, this tragedy has intensified and the situation in Lebanon has grown worse.

On Tuesday (Feb. 7), President Reagan directed:

— The redeployment of U.S. Marines from Beirut Airport to ships off the coast. This rotation to U.S. ships has begun and will proceed in phases.

— Some Marines will remain in Lebanon to protect remaining U.S. personnel.

— When the government of Lebanon is able to reconstitute itself in a broadly-based representative government, we are prepared to speed up support for the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), through

accelerated training and provision of equipment.

— This support will include counter-terrorist training to help combat the terrorist threat to innocent Lebanese people and to Americans in Lebanon and throughout the Middle East.

— Finally, the president has authorised our naval forces to provide fire and air support against elements firing into Beirut from Syrian-controlled areas, and against units attacking U.S. or Multinational Force personnel and facilities.

These actions should not be interpreted as a lessening of U.S. commitment to the people and the government of Lebanon. These steps have been under consideration for some time and we believe the rotation of U.S. Marines to ships offshore will not only provide them more safety from the terrorists, but also help defuse their presence there as an obstacle to reconstituting a national government in Lebanon.

We have been involved in Lebanon in order to help create the conditions in which the government could begin the difficult process of national reconciliation. This has been essential to peace and stability there.

By Hamza Hendawi
Reporter

BAHRAIN — Recent multi-billion dollar arms purchases and joint military manoeuvres by Gulf states reflect rising security concerns and a growing determination to rely less on outside military aid, diplomats say.

Saudi Arabia has signed a \$4 billion arms deal with France for air defence equipment while Kuwait has sent a navy contingent to West Germany for training.

Senior Gulf military officials have spoken of expanding their newly-established rapid deployment force, designed to cope with the initial stages of a foreign invasion, as more joint land and air exercises are planned to improve combat readiness.

The six states which formed the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) in 1981 — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — all face Iran across the

Gulf. They are among the richest countries in the Arab World but with a total population of less than 15 million.

The impetus for the council's formation and its increasing co-ordination of foreign policy and defence matters was mainly concern over the Gulf's security in the wake of the Iranian revolution in 1979, the outbreak of the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq in 1980 and other tensions in the area.

Saudi Arabia, whose armed forces are by far the largest of the six, last month announced the \$4 billion arms deal with France which Saudi Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz said included weapons yet unused by the French Armed Forces.

The deal, covering sophisticated air defence equipment, underlined Saudi Arabia's desire to achieve its top defence priority of tight air defences, one Arab diplomat said.

He said air defence became the top priority after Israeli warplanes

flew unopposed through Saudi airspace on their way to bomb an Iraqi nuclear plant in Baghdad in 1981.

But despite Riyadh's diversification of its arms sources, he added, Saudi Arabia remained largely dependent on Washington for long-term strategic co-operation.

At present, Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft on loan from Washington, to the Saudi government fly over the Gulf to give advance warning of any external threats.

The kingdom is expected to take delivery in 1986 of the first of five AWACS it bought in 1981 to replace the borrowed radar planes, under an \$8.5 billion deal which also includes eight in-flight refuelling tankers.

Saudi Arabian officials said Britain offered to sell the kingdom a wide variety of weapons during a visit to Riyadh last week by British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine.

Diplomats said the Saudis would be most interested in the British Challenger tank to compensate for Bonn's refusal to sell them 180 of the last and heavily armed Leopard-2 tanks.

Kuwait, shaken last December by a wave of bomb attacks which left six dead and many injured, has announced plans for what is officially described as a "land and sea security belt."

Kuwait has sent coastguards to West Germany for training to strengthen its small navy. Kuwaiti officials said this was intended to protect the country against "infiltrators", a term used after the December attacks for which 25 Iraqis, Lebanese and others go on trial this weekend.

Gulf states have also stepped up military co-operation, with calls to co-ordinate arms purchases. Diplomats say priorities include increasing interchangeability of ammunition between Gulf forces and greater co-ordination of early warning systems.

Squadrons from the Saudi and Kuwait Air Forces have just ended their second joint exercises in three months, and warplanes from Oman and the UAE started joint exercises this week. Major aerial manoeuvres involving all six Gulf states are planned in Bahrain later this year.

Last October, ground units from the six states held their first joint manoeuvres in the UAE, and plans are under way to expand the Gulf Rapid Deployment Force.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and Oman have earmarked battalion-strength units and Bahrain and Qatar company-size contingents for the force, according to diplomatic sources.

Bahrain's chief of staff, Brigadier Khalifa bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa, told the Gulf states agency last week that Gulf states were considering new weapons for the joint force.

He gave no details, but Gulf officials say moves are afoot to set up an independent arms industry.

Shamir warns of Lebanon agreement abrogation

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Saturday that if Lebanon abrogated their agreement of May last year, Israel would be free to disregard the obligations of the pact, including an undertaking to withdraw from Lebanon.

He told state radio Israel had "conceded far more than it received in order to reach an agreement with Lebanon."

The Israeli-Lebanese agreement called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, but Tel Aviv made its pullback contingent on a simultaneous move by the Syrians who have rejected the accord.

"Agreements are reached so that they may be honoured and implemented. Should Lebanon abrogate the treaty, Israel will see itself free of the need to fulfil its obligations, including the preservation of Lebanon's sovereignty by a complete pullout from Lebanon."

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 "as an act of self-defence to safeguard its northern border against attacks from Lebanon," the prime minister said.

"Everyone should understand that we shall protect our northern border and our people with or without the agreement," he said. Asked about reports from Was-

hington that the U.S. had asked Israel to allow President Amin Gemayel to abrogate the accord, Mr. Shamir said:

"I cannot believe this is the view of President Reagan. Those American officials who perhaps favour this move should understand that if the accord is discarded it will only strengthen Syria and its aggressive policies," he said.

Rafael Eitan, who was Israeli chief of staff during the invasion of Lebanon but has since retired, said Saturday that "if the U.S. abandons Lebanon, it will be a victory for the Soviet Union through its surrogate, Syria."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
MAIN CHANNEL	
16:30	Koran
16:45	Cartoons
17:30	Children's Programmes
18:30	Cinema
19:30	Programme Review
20:30	Health and Life Programme
21:30	News in Arabic
22:30	Arabic Series
23:30	Local Programmes
24:30	Arabic Series
25:30	News Summary
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
18:00	French Programme
19:30	News in French
20:30	News in Hebrew
21:30	News in Arabic
22:30	Art Documentary
23:30	Best Seller: Scarlet Pimpernel — Part 2
24:30	News in English
25:30	Drama — Madame Bouvary
26:30	Eps 1
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 99 KHz, FM & party on 9500 KHz, SW	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Pop Session
09:30	News Summary
10:00	Pop Session
10:30	News Summary
11:00	News Bulletin
11:30	Instrumentals
12:00	Science Report
12:30	News Summary
13:00	News Summary
13:30	Old Favorites
14:00	Literary Choice
14:30	News Summary
15:00	Jazz Hour
15:30	Newsweek
16:00	Dance with a Star
16:30	Evening Show
17:00	News Summary
17:30	News Summary
18:00	Evening Show
18:30	News Summary
19:00	Evening Show
19:30	News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE	
639, 720, 1413 KHz	
06:00	Newsweek 06:30 The Back Family
06:45	Financial Review 06:55 Reflections
07:00	World News 07:05 British Press Review 07:15 Letterbox 07:30 Short Takes 07:45 Letter from America
08:00	Newsweek 08:30 Jazz for the Asking
09:00	World News 09:05 News About Britain 09:15 From Our Own Correspondent 09:30 The Seven Deadly Sins 09:50 Recording of the Week 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 The Pleasure of the Word 10:30 World News 10:35 British Press Review 11:15 Science in Action 11:45 Sports Review 12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World News 13:05 News About Britain 13:15 Letter from America 13:30 Baker's Half Dozen 14:00 Play of the Week 14:45 Jazzy Kornet's Rhythm and Blues 15:00 World News 15:05 Commentary 15:15 Good Books 15:30 The Painter of Signs 15:45 The Saudi Jones Request Show 16:30 Protestionism 17:00 World News 17:15 Concert Hall 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 From our own Correspondent 18:35 Financial Review 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:05 Meditation 19:40 Reflections 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Jazz Score 21:00 After Hours 21:15 Radio Theatre: Anchor and Hope 22:00 World News 22:05 Commentary 22:25 Letterbox 22:30 Sunday Half-Hour 23:00 I Know It's Here Somewhere 23:15 The Pleasure of the Word 23:30 World News 23:35 News About Britain 23:45 Newsweek 24:00 World News 24:05 Commentary 24:15 World News 24:15 Commentary 24:15 Letter from America 24:30 The Comedians
VOICE OF AMERICA	
MW 1260, KHz 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 & 15210	
06:00	VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; daily business report; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; features 17:00 News 17:10 New Horizons and New Products 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 International Viewpoints 18:30 Music USA Standards 19:00 News 19:10 Critic's Choice 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Sunday Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* "Orientalist" original paintings, at the Alia Art Gallery.	
FILM	
* "Airplane" starts at the American Centre at 8:00 p.m.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267	American Centre Tel. 44371
American Centre Library Tel. 41520	British Council Tel. 361474
French Cultural Centre Tel. 37009	Goebe Institute Tel. 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 44203	Jordan National Gallery Tel. 24409
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 39777	Hays Arts Centre Tel. 665195
Hussein Youth City Tel. 667181	Y.W.C.A. Tel. 664251
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 36111	University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquity of Jordan. Jabal Al Qala' (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luwbeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 301.	
Majma'a Museum (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916.	

SERVICE CLUBS	
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel. 1:30 p.m.	
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel. 1:30 p.m.	
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.	
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel. 2:00 p.m.	
Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman, Tel. 24590.	
Church of the Assumption (Roman Catholic): Jabal Luwbeh. 37440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Hussein. 661757.	
St. Ephraim Church (Greek Orthodox): Abdali. 23541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman. 41559.	
Assiout Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 71331.	
Assiout Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. 75261.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh. 71751.	
Assiout International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. 663249.	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:57	Fajr
06:22	(Sunrise) Sharq
11:50	Dhuhr
14:55	Asr
17:19	Maghreb
18:44	Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Alia Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. 185 53255, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
07:05	Cairo (MS)
09:05	Amman (RJ)
09:15	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30	Damascus (RJ)
10:30	Jeddah (RJ)
09:45	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
09:45	Cairo (RJ)
10:40	Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
10:40	Tripoli, Lebanon (LN)
11:30	Kuwait (RJ)
15:00	Jeddah (SV)
15:30	Cairo (RJ)
17:00	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:15	New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:35	London, Paris (RJ)
18:00	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:40	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:40	Zurich, Damascus (SR)
20:05	Cairo (RJ)
20:20	Athens (OA)
20:40	London (BA)
23:00	Damascus (RJ)
23:05	Cairo (MS)
00:30	Cairo (RJ)
00:45	Baghdad (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
05:45	Cairo (RJ)
07:00	Amman (RJ)
07:40	Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:05	Cairo (MS)
11:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30	Kuwait (RJ)
12:10	Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
15:05	Cairo (MS)
15:30	Larnaca, Tripoli (LN)
16:30	Kuwait (RJ)
19:30	Kuwait,

Localisation of foreign banks to be two-staged, say banking sources

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After studying the issue of localising foreign banks in Jordan according to the government's recent edict to compel foreign banks in the Kingdom to restructure their equity shareholding to reflect 51 per cent Jordanian ownership, the Central Bank of Jordan has decided to carry out the process in two stages, banking sources said here Saturday.

Sources said the first stage to be implemented in 18 months will include the Egyptian Arab Land Bank, the Lebanese Al Mashreq Bank, and Britain's Grindlays Bank and the British Bank of the Middle East.

The second stage, beginning mid-1985, will cover Iraq's Rafidain Bank, the Luxembourg-based Bank of Credit and Commerce International, and Citibank and Chase Manhattan Bank of the U.S.

Each foreign bank will have



Mohammad Nabulsi

three to four months in which to apply the edict. The banks have also been told to notify the Central Bank by March 31 how and when they intended to implement the procedures.

At a press conference last month, Central Bank governor, Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi, said the government would not interfere with the manner in which the banks change their equity structure within the coming three years, beyond requiring that at least 25 per cent of the value of any new shares issued be offered in a general public share float.

Bankers interviewed by the Jordan Times said they would study the situation and decide on the most appropriate response, either to comply with the regulations and maintain a minority shareholding, perhaps also with a management contract to continue to oversee the operations of the banks, or to sell out their shares completely and terminate their presence in Jordan.

The government has told banks they will lose their licences unless they implement the Dec. 27 edict within the three years. All Jordanian banks have been asked to raise their capital to JD 5 million by the end of 1984, and when the foreign banks become locally owned, they must also have a minimum capital of JD 5 million.

On the expansion of the equity of Jordanian banks, Dr. Nabulsi said he did not expect the enlargement of banks to result in an "over capacity" in the banking sector as had happened in the insurance sector in recent years.

W. German research body congratulated by Hassan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has sent a message of congratulations to the president of the West German Federal Agency for Geosciences and Raw Materials (BGR), Professor Bender, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary ceremony of BGR in Hanover on Feb. 6, 1984.

BGR's activities are well known in Jordan and the agency has contributed to research and development projects in the Kingdom.

At the ceremony, Volkmar Kohler, parliamentary state secretary at the federal ministry for economic cooperation, praised the achievements of the agency in helping Third World countries.

Mr. Kohler said since the federal republic began providing public sector development aid, the agency had assisted numerous Third World countries in developing their resources, enabling them independently to explore and exploit their natural resources.

Mr. Kohler indicated that German development aid would hardly be conceivable today without the agency's activities. The growing number of requests from all over the world for projects in cooperation with the agency were proof of this, Mr. Kohler said.

He went on to say that the agency's achievements received just as much recognition from the government of the Federal Republic of Germany as they did from the partner countries.

The agency's cooperation with the ministry of economic cooperation, responsible for development policy matters, Mr. Kohler said, had been extremely positive over the years and would be continued. Thus far, the government of the Federal Republic of Germany has provided a total of more than 1.4 billion Deutsch-marks for geological and mining projects in developing countries.

Of this amount, more than DM 440 million have been used for projects carried out by BGR.

The agency currently employs more than 50 people under full-time, long-term contracts in more than 30 countries of the Third World. A large number of short-term staff are used in addition to this.

The agency's development policy work includes the production of mineral raw materials, oil, natural gas, geological studies and advisory services, prospecting and exploration of mineral deposits, hydrogeological studies, the establishment and improvement of geological services and consultancy services for mining authorities in developing countries.



Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obaidat chairs a meeting of the Higher Agricultural Council Saturday at which was discussed fruit growing and wheat production in the highland areas (Petra photo)

Agricultural council discusses fruit trees, highland wheat production

AMMAN (J.T.) — Planning fruit trees in southern Jordan was among the major topics discussed by the Higher Agricultural Council which met here Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obaidat.

The council, meeting at the prime ministry, heard a report on fruit tree growing in the highland areas and the establishment of a co-operative society for the production of apples in the Shobak region.

A committee was set up at the meeting to help establish the co-operative society comprising representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Water Authority.

The council also reviewed a report on wheat production in the eastern regions of the country, and

an experimental project for growing wheat at Wadi Al Disi in the south, and in Al Duleil and H-4 areas in the north east.

The prime minister urged those concerned to speed up the establishment of a grain council which is to be established under the chairmanship of Agriculture Minister Mohammad Bashir and which will be entrusted with debating all policies concerned with the production and consumption of grain in Jordan.

The council also heard a report on the establishment of a company to process and market agricultural products. The projected company will hold a meeting on Feb. 17 to elect a board and to handle several urgent issues.

The prime minister requested

the director-general of the Jordan Co-operative Organisation, Hassan Nabulsi, to carry out the necessary contacts with countries that produce potato seeds to purchase sufficient quantities for distribution to local farmers.

Also it was decided that tomato paste processing factories in the Central Jordan Valley region will open Tuesday to receive surplus tomatoes from local producers for processing.

The purchase price of these tomatoes will be announced Sunday.

Attending the meeting were Deputy Prime Minister, and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar, Mr. Bashir, Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub and other members of the agricultural council.

Yarmouk hospital will increase range of medical specialisations, says dean

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yarmouk University hospital, scheduled to be established on the permanent site of the university, will greatly contribute to changing the health and medical situation in Jordan, according to the dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the university, Dr. Sa'd Hijazi. Dr. Hijazi also pointed out that this hospital will include all types of medical specialisations.

In an interview with the Jordanian Arabic daily newspaper Al Ra'i, Dr. Hijazi said that "this modern hospital will be one of the best and most advanced hospitals in the region." It will include rare medical specialisations and will comprise five medical complexes in addition to the main hospital building.

The main building will include the faculties of medicine and dentistry as well as sections for general health, paramedical sciences and nursing, in addition to a special department for physiotherapy, Dr. Hijazi added.

The hospital will provide medical services to all the inhabitants of the country and will also receive patients from various Arab countries in return for fees to be fixed by the hospital, Dr. Hijazi said.

Talking about the criteria for accepting students at the Faculty of Medicine, the dean affirmed that the number of students will be limited at the beginning. This is a deliberate policy, he said, aimed at concentrating on teaching to turn our highly trained physicians.

Therefore, he added, the number of students which will be accepted at the faculty will not be as high as might be expected. Admission will be based on the student's general average in the General Secondary Certificate (Tawjihi) and on an evaluation of his personality based on an interview.

The faculty will open to the first batch of students from the beginning of September, according to Dr. Hijazi, who added that the faculty of Medicine will be transformed from a traditional faculty to a well-developed one that puts an emphasis on postgraduate studies and continuing medical education.

It will also be a very flexible faculty in terms of its programmes in order to adapt to the changing needs of society. The faculty will teach and train paramedical staff from Jordan and other Arab countries, Dr. Hijazi concluded.

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Dr. Sa'd Hijazi

Abdul Jaber, U.N. head discuss mission's visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Tayseer Abdul Jaber Saturday discussed with the director of the regional office of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in Amman, Ali Shabou, a number of topics related to the task of a U.N. mission scheduled to visit Jordan shortly.

The mission's visit is aimed at

gathering information about the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Dr. Abdul Jaber also Saturday discussed with Indian Ambassador in Amman, Pyare Lal Santoshi ways of strengthening co-operation between the two countries in the field of labour migration.

LA flights start March 3

AMMAN (J.T.) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, plans to provide a twice-weekly direct service from Los Angeles and Chicago to Amman starting March 3, 1984.

To prepare for the occasion, Alia is dispatching its folklore troupe to Los Angeles and Chicago

to present variety shows of Jordanian folklore art. The troupe will present dabke, a national dance and Jordanian songs and music during their 10-day tour.

Alia will be the first Middle Eastern air carrier to serve Los Angeles and the first Middle Eastern airline to operate a route so far from home base.

Khamash's paintings score success in Bombay

BOMBAY (J.T.) — The Jordanian artist Ammar Khamash, who has already established a name for himself among art-lovers in the Middle East, has added another international show to his credit.

From Dec. 27, 1983, until Jan. 2, 1984, the Taj Art Gallery in Bombay, India showed a selection of his water colours and oil paintings, which met with an enthusiastic response from the public and art scene, a spokesman for the gallery said.

The show was visited by a large crowd, among them students from

the Bombay School of Arts and the dean of the Faculty of Art there. "This exhibition is a new experience for the city of Bombay", and "I have learnt a lot from this exhibition" were some of the spontaneous responses, the spokesman said.

The Indian Express newspaper review said: "What immediately draws one's attention are his enormous, mural-like, multi-section canvases boldly depicting his impressions of an American supermarket. In his water colours of the Jordanian countryside, Khamash shows remarkable depth and maturity."

Insurance sector to be re-organised, says Anani

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani announced here Saturday that the government is going to re-organise the insurance sector in Jordan in view of its importance and the protection it offers to various sectors in the country's economy.

The minister, speaking at the opening of a three-day conference on "Engineering Insurance" at the Holiday Inn here, called on insurance companies operating in Jordan to give due consideration to engineering insurance in order to cover risks that ensue in the process of installing industrial instruments and equipment.

The insurance sector in Jordan has played a major role in providing security and protection for institutions involved in production and services in different fields, the minister said.

One of the fields that insurance

companies should cover is public buildings to insure residents against the risk of collapse, cracking, and general damage, the minister added.

The conference was organised by the Jordan Association of Insurance Companies (JAIC) in cooperation with the Arab Insurance Federation (AIF), whose delegates made speeches at the opening session.

AIF Secretary-General Mohammad Nabulsi said that Amman was chosen as the site for the conference because Jordan's insurance market has lately wit-

nessed major developments while the insurance sector receives government's strong support.

JAIC President Ra'ouf Abu Jaber told the opening session that the association strives to improve its insurance services and this conference was one step towards achieving that goal.

Engineering insurance, he said, has become one of the most important types of insurance in a modern world which has recently witnessed huge construction schemes. Mr. Abu Jaber said.

Taking part in the meetings are representatives of insurance companies and insurance experts from Jordan, Iraq, Britain, France, West Germany, Sweden and Syria.

Attending the opening session was Mr. Radi Ibrahim, head of insurance services at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism.

Delegates to refugees conference depart

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's delegation to a conference of Arab states hosting Palestinian refugees in Tunisia will submit two working papers on the effect of Israel's settlement policies in the occupied Arab regions and the general conditions of Arabs under Israeli rule.

This was announced here Saturday coinciding with the departure for Tunisia of the three-member delegation led by Assistant Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Usama Tabbouh.

Topics at the three-day meeting, to take place at the Arab League headquarters, cover the situation in the occupied Arab lands and Israel's drive to re-locate Palestinian refugee camps in the occupied regions.

Countries taking part in the meeting due to open Monday are Jordan, Syria, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation as well as representatives from the Arab League office.

Exhibition aims at boosting trade with Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian government will hold an exhibition of manufactured goods in the Egyptian capital of Cairo at the end of May, according to a report in the Jordanian Arabic daily newspaper Al Ra'i.

This is aimed at promoting trade between the two countries, in accordance with a trade protocol signed between Jordan and Egypt last December.

Egypt is also expected to hold a similar exhibition of Egyptian products in Amman later this year.

Work begins on third satellite

AMMAN (J.T.) — Work has already begun on setting up Jordan's third ground satellite communications station in the Be'as area, according to a Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) spokesman who was quoted Saturday by the Jordanian daily Al Ra'i.

The new satellite station will be linked to the Arab Satellite (Arabsat) the work of which focuses on the exchange of television programmes among Arab League countries, the TCC spokesman added.

Work on this station is expected to be completed before the end of this year.

Bahrain educationalists arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — An educational delegation from Bahrain arrived here Saturday on a six-day visit to Jordan.

The delegation members will tour a number of educational institutions and study their activities. They will also visit tourist and archaeological sites in the country. The delegation comprises 12 female school social workers.

Five to contest election for engineers' president

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nominations for the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) official posts were closed Thursday, according to a report in the Arabic daily newspaper Sawt Al Sha'ab.

Five candidates are standing for the post of president and they are: Laith Shbeilat, the current president, Ibrahim Abu Ayyash an ex-president, Ahmad Hamzah Al Arabi, Akram Fari' Abbasi and Khaled Al Nijawi.

There are also five candidates for the post of deputy president and they are: Michael Missinnat an ex-president, Rawhi Al Sharif the current deputy president, Abdullah Hamarneh, Na'im Tu'mah and Mr. Fayez Al Rabadi.

Candidates for the post of the president must have been members of the association for ten years and should be working in the

private sector while candidates for the post of deputy president need only to have been registered with the associations for ten years.

Twenty-two candidates are contesting the JEA's seven seats which are divided into the constituencies of: Civil engineering, architectural engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, and mines and mining.

Nominations for the new association council opened the Friday before last.

The general assembly of the JEA will hold its annual regular meeting Friday to discuss the financial and administrative reports and to approve them.

If it is quorate the elections will take place otherwise the general assembly's meeting will be postponed until Feb. 24.

Identity card priority to favour eligible voters

AMMAN (Petra) — Priority in issuing identity cards will be given to those who are over 20 years of age so as to facilitate their taking part in the forth coming by-election, according to Civil Registration Department Director Rifai Al Hazameh. He added that it takes two weeks to issue such identity cards.

Mr. Hazameh has instructed directors of his department's branches around the country to issue identity cards and family registration books to the public and to refrain from referring those late in obtaining them to court until March 12, the date set for by-elections on the East Bank.

Meanwhile, Saturday was the last date for objections against the voters lists for the coming by-election. The objections have been handled by the magistrates courts in the country.

The heads of committees at various registration centres will now take measures to amend their lists in accordance with the court rulings, a spokesman for the Ministry of Interior said.

The ministry, he added, will afterwards receive the amended lists of voters participating in the by-elections.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pharmacists conference slated for April

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA) is organising a three-day pharmaceutical conference in April at which a host of Arab and foreign pharmacists and representatives from pharmaceutical industries will take part, according to JPA President Ghaleb Sabbarini. The JPA is also organising an exhibition of pharmaceutical products manufactured by local and foreign firms to be held throughout the duration of the conference which will be held at the Professional Association Complex in Amman, Mr. Sabbarini said.

Taher meets Moroccan mining officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Two officials from the Moroccan Ministry of Mining conferred here Saturday with Thabet Al Taher, director-general of the Arab Mining Company (Armico) on Moroccan mining projects in which Armico is participating. An Armico spokesman said that the company has shares in the capital of Morocco's zinc, silver and lead mines.

Four die in road crashes

AMMAN (Petra) — Four people were killed and 74 others were injured in a total of 184 road accidents which occurred in Jordan over the past week. A spokesman for the Public Security Department said that in Amman 121 accidents took place. The rest were in Amman suburbs 19, Zarqa 3, Irbid 3, and in Karak, Ma'an, Aqaba, and Badia a total of 18.

IDB grants over JD 56,000 in loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) granted craftsmen 17 loans amounting to JD 56,600 during January. Amman area and the suburbs received 47.1 per cent of the loans while Madaba, Karak and Tafilah regions got 23.5 per cent, Irbid, Jerash and Ajloun regions obtained 23.5 per cent and Salt, Mahes and Fuhels received 5.9 per cent. The loans were provided to finance various projects such as blacksmith workshops, aluminium and carpentry workshops, bakeries, sewing centres and building materials factories, according to an IDB official.

Children's exhibition fixed for Feb. 25

AMMAN (Petra) — A second, one-week children's exhibition is to be set up at the theatre of the Department of Culture and Arts on February 25. Director-General of the Department of Culture and Arts Hayder Mahmoud said that the exhibition is aimed at enriching the culture of Jordanian children. The department will hold a children's exhibition every four months from now onwards, Mr. Mahmoud said.

Soviet Union mourns late leader

(Continued from page 1)

tipped to varying degrees by Western analysts as possible successors.

Some Western diplomats reacted sceptically to the naming of Monday as leadership selection day, saying it could be deliberate disinformation and the choice could come sooner.

But informed East European sources said Soviet bloc leaders had been asked by Moscow not to begin arriving for the funeral until Monday afternoon as high-level welcoming delegations would not be available until that time.

Non-communist bloc leaders expected in Moscow for the funeral included United States Vice-President George Bush, who also represented Washington at Mr. Brezhnev's burial, Presidents Zia Ul Haq of Pakistan and Mauno Koivisto of Finland, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany and Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher of Britain and Olof Palme of Sweden (See story on page 8).

Messages of condolences poured in from around the world as other governments decided their level of representation.

The Western press generally wrote off Mr. Andropov as a transitional leader who had not had enough time to make his mark on Soviet policies and they expressed hopes for improved East-West relations under his successor.

As condolence messages poured into the Kremlin from foreign capitals, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme and Finnish President Mauno Koivisto joined national

leaders preparing to attend Mr. Andropov's funeral.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will attend the funeral of Soviet President Yuri Andropov in Moscow on Tuesday, it was announced Sunday.

Mrs. Thatcher, who made an ice-breaking visit to Hungary last week, will be accompanied by British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, the announcement from her office added.

Mrs. Thatcher, once dubbed the "iron lady" by the Soviet press for her uncompromising stance on East-West issues, has recently expressed a desire to improve contacts between the two superpower blocs.

Chinese leaders expressed deep condolences to the Soviet Union on Saturday over the "unfortunate death" of Mr. Andropov and said they hoped for improved relations with their communist neighbour.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said there was no immediate word on which Chinese leader would attend Mr. Andropov's funeral.

African leaders paid tribute to Mr. Andropov as a great leader and a revolutionary and mourned his death after a short period in office as a tragedy.

Reagan recalls past

In his weekly radio address from Santa Barbara, California, Mr. Reagan Saturday recalled how the U.S. and the Soviet Union had joined forces to defeat Nazi Germany in World War II and

said Americans and Russians had never fought each other.

"If the Soviet government want peace, then there will be peace," he declared.

Mr. Reagan did not suggest a summit between himself and Mr. Andropov's as yet unnamed successor.

But he hoped that Mr. Bush would have a chance to meet the new Soviet leader.

Mr. Reagan decided Friday against attending the funeral. He said Mr. Bush would be accompanied at the ceremony in Moscow by Senate Republican leader Howard Baker and Arthur Hartman, U.S. ambassador in Moscow.

U.S.-Soviet relations came under heavy strain when a Soviet jet shot down a South Korean airliner last September, killing 269 people.

In November the Soviet Union walked out of Geneva talks on limiting medium-range nuclear missiles after the installation of new U.S. missiles in Europe.

Moscow also left separate long-range missile reduction talks (START) last December without setting a date for resumption.

Mr. Reagan noted Saturday that Mr. Andropov, whom he never met during the Soviet leader's 15 months in power, had been totally absent from public view for nearly six months so his death did not come as a shock to the world.

"Nevertheless, the importance of the U.S.-Soviet relationship makes his passing away a time for reflection on where that relationship is heading," he said.

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Editor: MUHAMMAD AMAD
Managing Editor: MUHAMMAD AMAD
Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephone: 666328, 666365 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
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U.S. plays with fire

IT IS not clear yet whether President Reagan's decision last Tuesday to withdraw U.S. Marines from Beirut was an attempt to defuse mounting domestic pressure over his policies on Lebanon, or the president intended, as he implied in his "redeployment" statement, to continue pushing his administration's objectives through an alternative reliance on air and sea power.

In fact, the U.S. president's new strategy on Lebanon could be two-pronged. On the one hand, his decision to "redeploy" the Marines could, in theory at least, turn the tables against his political opponents at home, thus widening his re-election chances. And, on the other, the presence of American troops off the Lebanese coast, away from the direct area of battle but within artillery range from combatants, could give him enough power to shoot at and threaten "enemy" positions, when the need arose. But, assuming that this is what Mr. Reagan was thinking when he took the decision to pull the Marines out of Beirut, what are his chances of success? What, in other words, is the likely outcome of the latest American move?

To answer any question on the U.S. role in Lebanon, and hence the Middle East, one has to look at the recent past of America's physical involvement in the problem, starting with the dispatch of the Marines to Beirut in August of 1982 until this day. That story being long, and for the most part told as well, there is only a fact or two to be mentioned and stressed.

At the time President Reagan first sent the American contingent to Beirut, he assured his countrymen that "there is no intention or expectation that the U.S. armed forces will become involved in hostilities" there. The assurance, however, later turned out to be an undertaking, on the part of the U.S. president and his administration, to authorise "U.S. naval forces... to provide naval gunfire and air support against any units firing into greater Beirut from parts of Lebanon controlled by Syria, as well as against any units directly attacking American or MNF (Multi-National Force) personnel and facilities."

President Reagan's undertaking amounts to a threat, suggested Senator John Glenn of Ohio, who is also a contender for the U.S. presidency — a threat that would move the Americans from "an ill-defined mission in Lebanon to an undeclared war." This is one fact.

The other, and more depressing, fact is the Reagan administration's continued failure to understand the underlying political problem in Lebanon in particular, and the Middle East in general. We fail to see, for instance, how the U.S. president can be willing to extend his bad experience in Lebanon to the whole region, and how anybody will buy it. But again this is an issue that extends in scope and concern beyond the boundaries of American momentary decisions and considerations.

For now, the pressing problem remains to be how to save Lebanon, its people and its territory. Certainly, the American shelling and bombing will not solve it; and America should know that it cannot play the role of the mediator when it is a combatant party to the conflict.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S.' dubious assumptions

IN LIGHT of the balanced stance adopted by the Soviet Union towards the Arab cause, it is natural for Arabs to share feelings of sorrow with the Soviet people and government on the death of President Yuri Andropov. Although too early to guess the consequences of the "transformation stage" through which the Kremlin is passing up until the new Soviet President is elected and his style comes to light, NATO sources do not conceal their predictions that the Soviet decision-making will freeze until that stage is completed. Whether this prediction is correct or not is almost beside the point, its mere announcement is enough to spark off new fears about American attempts to try to increase their control over the Palestinian cause, and to resort to ever more extreme action in Lebanon of which the latest American naval shelling of Lebanese villages is but a forerunner. The airlifting out of American and European citizens from Lebanon confirms that Lebanon is about to witness a new build up of American pressure there.

Undoubtedly, the American administration will have committed new even more dangerous errors to add to its previous ones if it is banking solely on the emanulation of Soviet decision-making. It is obvious that the Arab rejection of American control over its issues and the strong Lebanese resistance to American practices there are feelings that can never freeze.

In light of this conclusion, the American administration had better be wary. Otherwise, it might fall prey to erroneous predictions that will only worsen the situation in the region and lead to an even greater deterioration in America's reputation.

Al Dustour: French move unmasks U.S.

THE FRENCH proposal aimed at the return of the Lebanese crisis to the United Nations, being the only international body responsible for peace and security in the world, is the correct exit out of the present hurricane in Lebanon where the multinational force have failed to achieve any of its basic targets. The bitter harvest of the United States efforts in Lebanon and the Middle East should set as a greater motivation to the United Nations which, as became clear through developments in the Lebanese crisis, is the only international body able not only to come up with possible solutions but also to provide an honourable exit for those who tried to impose their will on the area.

The multinational force, which being led by America, became a replacement for any role that the United Nations might have performed in Lebanon, has finally become the centre of strong public criticism and has proven merely a cover for an American role which envisaged Lebanon as a wide door to greater American influence in the region. Moreover, it was an open attempt to cover up for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and to consolidate it in the south of Lebanon. In the French proposal we see a realistic streak in France's foreign policy that deserves every support, and at the same time we see in such a proposal a loud announcement of the failure and futility of American policy in the region.

Sawt Al Shaab: Time for Arab solution

DURING THE last few days, a number of Lebanese personalities requested the Arab League to hold a private meeting in an attempt to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis in its present dangerous situation. The difference is that this request came after long years of Lebanese fighting and of favouring America for most roles in Lebanon. Through its envoys, America took over the role of the United Nations, the Arab League and even the Lebanese people who were supposed to express their opinion through negotiation between the warring factions without America's planning and Israel's acts of imposition. So, the road was closed to any Arab efforts to restore the idea of an Arab deterrent force.

The real responsibility in Lebanon is still Arab, while the Arabs have given the American proposals for Lebanon more than every chances of success. However, American policy in Lebanon deviated as usual under Israeli influence to side with Israeli interests against those of Lebanon and the Arabs in general.

Of course, we do not want America's withdrawal from the battle leaving arms as the only judge over the fate of Lebanon, but we see in a possible cessation of American shelling, a possible start to rectifying the crisis and to giving an opportunity to the Arab League or other Arab mediators to try to bring peace.

Local contractors deserve protection

By Fahed Fanek

CONSTRUCTION plays an important role in the Jordanian economy. Investments in construction works amount to over 65 per cent of all capital expenditure incurred in the country. Gross output of the construction sector reached JD 350 million (\$1 billion) in 1982, over 35 per cent of which represents the net value added to the gross domestic product.

Assuming that the average duration of construction projects is two years from start to completion, then the price tag of all projects underway at any time must be around JD 700 million (\$2 billion).

It is estimated that more than 75 per cent of the above works — in value — are being

undertaken by foreign contractors, mainly Korean, Chinese, Turkish, and European; while local contractors are content with only one quarter of their domestic market, and confined to rather small-scale projects.

This situation is both unhealthy and unacceptable. The previous government realised the problem and issued a circular No. 13, dated May 9, 1983, which was addressed to all related governmental bodies in support of local contractors.

This circular served to highlight not only the existence of the problem but also the need to do something about it. Unfortunately, the circular cha-

nged nothing, and public sector contracts continued to be awarded one after another to foreign firms, even when the difference of price was within the order of six per cent only.

It is hoped, therefore, that the new government will look seriously into the matter, and will give the local contractors more than lip service, by banning non-Jordanian contractors, except in such cases where the works are so sophisticated and advanced that local expertise cannot cope with it.

The partial remedy in the form of government instructions to foreign contractors to subcontract at least 20 per cent of the works to a local con-

tractor, or to employ a minimum of 20 or 40 per cent of local manpower is a step forward, but is insufficient to solve the problem.

Foreign contractors naturally import all production elements: managers, engineers, labour, working material etc., for which we have to pay in hard currencies, resulting in a balance of payments deficit, which is in turn translated into continued attrition of our reserves. Even machinery and equipment are brought into the country by these firms on temporary entry basis, to avoid tax.

Using local contractors means more employment oppor-

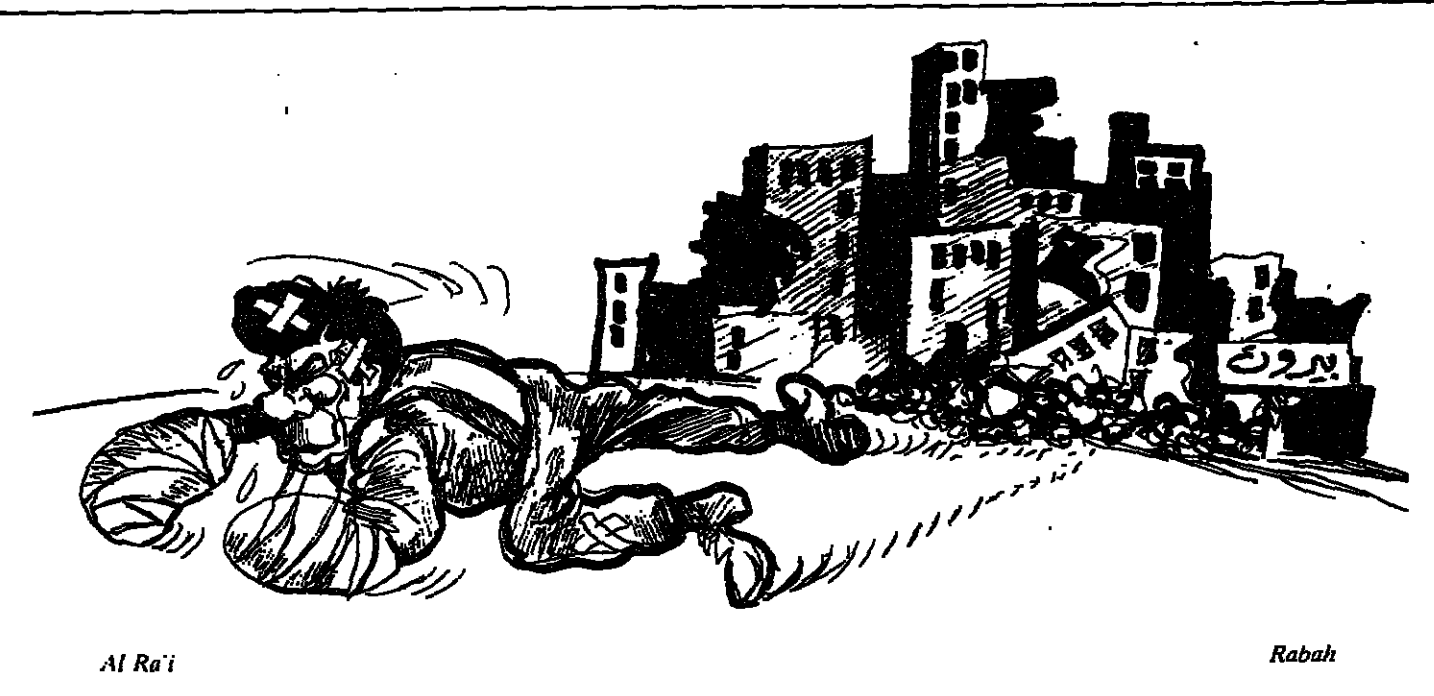
unities to Jordanian engineers, administrators, and workers; more use of local material and services, which has an incremental effect on the flow of income within the national economy.

Our local construction companies can, of course, use foreign experts in the short term until we build up our national expertise which will be able not only to design and implement our projects, but will also be qualified to seek business in other Arab countries, gain foreign exchange and enrich the Jordanian role in building and modernising the Arab World.

Supporting local contracting companies has always been a

desired and wise policy. Now it has become urgent, in view of the glut in Jordanian engineers looking for jobs, and because our contractors have recently lost major part of their market share in Iraq and Saudi Arabia, thus having to fall back on their home market. It is only natural that they should be protected in their own domestic market.

Jordan's infant industry is heavily protected in the domestic market notwithstanding the fact that both price and quality are not always superior to foreign products. Why should not we be able to extend some effective protection to our national construction sector?



Beirut Marine pullout does not help Reagan's election campaign much

By David Nagy
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's decision to transfer U.S. Marines from Beirut to offshore warships removes the political problem his aides feared most but still leaves Lebanon a festering sore in his 1984 election campaign.

Both Democratic and Republican critics of America's role in Lebanon applauded the move but said it did not come soon enough or go far enough.

Former Vice-President Walter Mondale, front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, commended Mr. Reagan but said the decision had come very late and showed that the president and his aides did not understand the situation in Lebanon.

Republican Senator Barry Goldwater, an old Reagan ally, also praised the withdrawal move. But he said he still feared America would become embroiled in war with Syria because of the continued presence of U.S. ships and planes off Lebanon.

The order to pull the 1,600-man Marine force back to the safety of ships off the Lebanese coast will enable Mr. Reagan's re-election aides to breathe easier as the presidential campaign heats up.

But it remains to be seen how far Mr. Reagan's decision to use U.S. ships and planes to attack forces firing into Beirut from Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon will expand America's military involvement.

Although Reagan and his aides have maintained all along that Lebanon policy must remain above politics, key advisers such as campaign chairman Senator Paul Laxalt and director Edward Rollins have said they regarded potential foreign crises — and Lebanon above all — as the president's Achilles heel.

What they feared most, beyond any subtle issue of national security policy or patriotism, was the vulnerability of the Marines to another blood-letting such as the suicide bomb attack that killed 241 members of the Beirut force last October.

Mr. Reagan caught little political backlash from that disaster because of patriotic pride stirred by the simultaneous invasion of Grenada. But opinion polls show the public mood has changed.

The most recent survey by ABC News found that about 60 per cent of the public disapproved of Mr. Reagan's Lebanon policy, thought he was generally too prone to resort to force in foreign policy, and wanted the Marines pulled out immediately.

Other polls also showed the Marine presence in Lebanon was stoking a public fear of war into a major campaign issue.

In that sense, Mr. Reagan's move adds up to a big political plus whether or not politics was a factor, and a plus that probably outweighs any drawbacks.

But the president has not wriggled off the Lebanon hook by any means — some troubling question quickly surfaced amid the general chorus of relief expressed

in political circles.

Both the Republican Goldwater and Democratic Senator John Glenn, a top Mondale rival in the opposition Democratic race, noted immediately that Mr. Reagan also had ordered air-sea strikes against Syrian-backed militiamen if necessary to protect Beirut.

"I don't think we should even be over there in a position to use the armaments we have on ships," Mr. Goldwater said. "My fear is it will ultimately wind up with us in a shooting war."

Mr. Glenn took the same view, saying he was glad the ground troops were coming out but adding: "A condition of civil war exists and the United States ought not be in the middle of it. It would be a tragedy if we move from an ill-defined mission in Lebanon to an undeclared war."

The Democrats will also maintain attacks on the underlying policy that led Mr. Reagan to assure the public, as recently as his State of the Union speech two weeks ago, that "we are making progress in Lebanon" and the "Marines must stay."

"This is further evidence that they (the Reagan government) don't know what they're doing," Mr. Mondale said.

Democratic Senator Joseph Biden gave another twist to the faint praise Mr. Reagan is likely to get from critics.

"It was a bad decision (to send the Marines) in the first place," Mr. Biden said. "I think the president did the wisest thing and, although we do lose some face and



some stature, the alternative of staying there is unacceptable."

Mr. Reagan supporters can deflect that line of criticism by pointing out that most Democrats in Congress voted last year to let the president keep the Marines in Beirut for a further 18 months.

Yet the "loss of face" comment even from a withdrawal supporter like Mr. Biden suggests it might now be more difficult for Mr. Reagan to take one of his proudest political boasts with quite the same vigour.

In speech after speech, Mr. Reagan has been asserting that he has restored the United States to a position of respect as a nation that cannot be pushed around by its foes, as it was during the 1979-81 Iran hostage crisis.

That claim and the slogan that goes with it, "America is back and standing tall", may now be open to partisan challenge.

Petition calls for reduction of U.S. aid to Israel

By Nabeel Abraham

SINCE EARLY September a small group of dedicated volunteers has braved Michigan's cold and dreary weather to circulate a petition among the residents of this college town (home of the University of Michigan). The petition, unprecedented in the history of American politics, calls for a reduction of economic aid to Israel. Calling themselves People for the Reduction of Aid to Israel (PRAI), the volunteers painstakingly gathered over 5,000 signatures on the petition, which was handed in at an Ann Arbor city council meeting on Jan. 9. The council was also presented with six affidavits from local residents who originally emigrated from the West Bank, and whose lands had been confiscated by the Israeli authorities.

The council, as expected, was not swayed. Council Republicans rejected the petition, which called for the aid-to-Israel issue to be placed on the April municipal ballot, in a pre-meeting caucus while their Democratic counterparts drafted a watered down alternative which was subsequently voted down six to four in the council's meeting. Had it succeeded, the referendum would have required the city clerk to send a surrogely worded message to President Reagan, Secretary of State Shultz, and relevant members of the Michigan congressional delegation. The message asked the U.S. government "to withhold foreign economic aid designated for Israel by an amount equivalent to that which Israel spends to retain, settle and administer the Arab territories occupied in and after 1967."

Without a sponsor on the council the PRAI referendum had no chance of getting on the ballot. This eventuality, however, was realised from the very outset by PRAI's organisers. Instead, their ultimate objective has been to test the political waters at a grassroots level, and in the process stimulate public debate on what remains a "sacred cow" in American politics. Measured by the goals, PRAI can claim some success. The campaign has already inspired a similar effort in Berkeley, California, and plans are afoot for other campaigns in Washington, DC, and New York City. However, PRAI's long-term impact may ironically turn out to be on the Jewish community, where a lively debate has been triggered over the aid issue.

U.S. economic and military aid to Israel is currently running at \$2.6 billion per year, of which an estimated \$300m (some say up to \$600m) is illegally siphoned off to underwrite Jewish settlements in

the occupied territories. PRAI founder Stanley Mendenhall contends that American taxpayers' dollars are being used in contravention of officially stated U.S. policy, which maintains that Israeli settlements are illegal and obstruct to peace in the region. Mendenhall hopes to pressure Washington to implement its own policies, thereby lifting an import barrier to a negotiated Middle East settlement.

Working under the banner PRAI for Peace, the message-funded effort has succeeded in bringing the issue before the thousands of the town's residents. With the support of a Washington-based American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, PRAI organised an educational lecture series in conjunction with its petition drive. Speakers included former California congressman Paul McCloskey and law professor Richard Arens, brother of the present U.S. defence minister and an outspoken critic of Israeli policies towards the Palestinians.

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Glimmer of hope for solving Sikh dispute

By Brian Williams
Reuter

AMRITSAR, India — A glimmer of hope has appeared in efforts to solve India's Sikh problem after a near peaceful strike in the religious sect's homeland state Punjab. Wednesday papered over much recent bitterness.

The conduct of the strike, both by Sikh leaders and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government, was the first positive sign since negotiations between them about greater state autonomy collapsed a year ago.

Indian newspapers Thursday hailed the lack of violence in a region where there have been almost daily outrages in recent months as a credit to the Sikh leadership and Mrs. Gandhi.

Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal, head of the Sikhs main political party the Akali Dal, told Reuters the success of the strike, which brought transport and commercial activity to a halt, was a turning point in the dispute.

"We have shown peacefully the extent of support for our demands," he said.

There were stray outbreaks of violence but repeated appeals for calm and strict policing by Sikh vigilantes, as well as Mrs. Gandhi's decision not to confront the strikers by withdrawing train and bus services, stopped any major clashes between Sikhs and India's majority Hindu community.

Most of India's 12 million Sikhs live in Punjab where they are the majority sect.

On the eve of the strike, Mr. Gandhi offered to renew all-parte negotiations about the Sikh problem in another conciliatory gesture.

The success of the strike seemed also to have isolated Sikh extremists who have Indian authorities have blamed for much of the violence in Punjab.

The extremists have complained the Akali Dal leadership has not been firm enough in dealing with Mrs. Gandhi and demanded a tougher line to force her to the negotiating table.

Sikh demands include a formal statement designating Amritsar a holy city, a greater share of river waters flowing through Punjab and transfer to Punjab Punjabi-speaking areas in neighbouring states.

Before the strike, Mr. Longowal said its peacefulness would drive "disruptive force" out of Punjab, a reference both to Sikh and Hindu extremists.

"What the strike proves is that the militants and extremists have no popular constituency," the Hindustan Times said in an editorial Thursday.

With the air cleared for a meeting between Mrs. Gandhi and Sikh leaders, Akali Dal sources said negotiations could start early as this week, well before the planned next stage of the Sikh campaign.

"The only question is whether Mr. Longowal has the necessary self-confidence and the government the requisite foresight to be reasonable," the Hindustan Times said.

Handwritten signature: J. J. ...

The old and the new interact in Leningrad

By Mark Wood
Reuter

LENINGRAD — Leningrad is alight with fireworks, beacons and street illuminations to commemorate the ending of a cruel 900-day siege by the Nazis in which over a million of its people were killed.

But the dazzling lights and festive spirit seem to reflect more than just a reverence for the past. For after years of decline, the former Tsarist capital is suddenly finding a prominent new role in modern Soviet society.

"For years you had a sense of drift. Now there is a feeling that Leningrad is going somewhere, that something is being done here," Galina, a middle-aged language teacher, said.

The reason for the new sense of optimism is that Leningrad has emerged as a power-house of Soviet industry.

The city has developed some of the most modern and efficient production systems in the country, achieved some of the fastest growth rates and is now regularly cited as a model for others to follow.

That alone would not explain the sense of public confidence. The cause of that was evidently a single executive decision taken in Moscow.

Moscow ruled last year that full state backing should be given to construction of a dam across the Gulf of Finland to hold back the flood waters which inundate Leningrad every year.

Founded in 1703 as St. Petersburg, the city was the fourth largest in Europe at the turn of the century and a centre of learning and the arts.

Renamed Leningrad in 1924, the city's steady was plagued with the fierce 900-day German blockade, during which more than 650,000 people died of starvation and almost the same number perished through bombing and she-

ling. Although it was rapidly rebuilt after the siege was broken in early 1944, the Soviet government focused industrial redevelopment in the central and southern parts of the country.

Plans for the 25 kilometre dam have been on the drawing boards for long, but each time a commencement date was named the plans had to be put up for lack of appropriations.

All that has changed. Former city Communist Party chief Gromyko Romanov, who tentatively started construction work three years ago, gained full state support for the project after Yuri Andropov became party leader.

"To some extent Mr. Romanov is probably promoting the dam to demonstrate his own authority. But in another sense its approval shows that Leningrad has become much more important to the Russian leadership," one Western diplomat in Moscow said.

The reason for the city's economic renaissance is to a large extent due to Mr. Romanov himself.

Over the past decade he forced through a rapid industrial reorganisation in the city and succeeded in substantially increasing output with a stable labour force.

Mr. Romanov's method was based on pushing scientific research workers and industrial managers into working much more closely together to devise more efficient and time-saving systems.

As a result, Leningrad's heavy industries, turning out machine tools and energy equipment, registered far higher growth rates than the national average over the past few years.

Workers' pay has grown faster than average and housing has been improved more rapidly.

At a time when Soviet planners are calling for greater efficiency throughout the whole national economy, Mr. Romanov's successes explain why he is now in a



Nevsky Avenue-Leningrad's main thoroughfare

strong position to succeed Mr. Andropov as Soviet leader.

But in Leningrad itself, the name of the 61-year-old Politburo member evokes mixed feelings.

Many ordinary people happily give him credit for building up their city and express confidence that he will continue to represent Leningrad's best interests.

But other accuse him of destroying Leningrad's cultural atmosphere and reducing it to a soulless industrial city saved only by the splendour of its 18th century centre.

Mr. Romanov, an ideological hardliner, cracked down hard on dissent and on non-establishment artists, driving away young artists, actors and writers to the more liberal and creative climate of Mos-

cow.

But if Mr. Romanov did overshadow Leningrad's past as a lively cultural centre, he was also diligent in restoring the Tsarist grandeur which gave the city its visual character.

Founded by Tsar Peter the Great on the north-eastern edge of the Baltic, Leningrad grew up in the 18th and 19th centuries in a mixture of classical and baroque styles which still give it an old-world charm.

Millions of roubles have been spent in the past few years renovating the Tsar's Winter Palace and the classical and baroque facades of merchant houses, churches, and cathedrals.

Teams of specialists are even

replacing piece by piece the mosaic dome on a mosque built specially for the city's Muslim Tartar inhabitants.

But although Leningrad is one of the Soviet Union's most popular destinations for foreign tourists, its Communist elders are evidently determined it should not become merely a pretty holiday centre.

"There was a danger that Leningrad would become no more than a living museum of the Tsars and the October, 1917 Revolution," one West European diplomat said.

"Whatever one may think of Mr. Romanov, he has certainly prevented that and given the city a new lease of life."

Rosy dreams about nuclear industry are fading out

By Stephen Powell
Reuter

LONDON — The world's nuclear industry is facing a bumpy future, as its costs soar, electricity demand stagnates and public suspicion persists.

Critics argue that the industry is slowly dying, victim of insoluble problems of cost, safety, nuclear waste disposal and links with the atomic bomb.

Nuclear advocates maintain that their troubles stem from the recession. The atom, they say, still holds promise for mankind.

The American industry is in desperate straits. It has had no new orders since 1978. A string of half-completed, abandoned plants across the United States bears witness to loss of commercial faith in the atom.

Only a decade ago, projections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the European community and countless others all predicted that by the year 2000 the atom would provide half of the world's electricity.

These dreams have faded. And now, after more than a quarter of a century of development, nuclear energy provides 10 per cent of the world's electricity, or three per cent of total power.

The Vienna-based IAEA, which promotes nuclear power, now estimates that the atom might provide about 23 per cent of electricity by the turn of the century.

Even this could prove wildly optimistic. Hans-Juergen Laue, director of the agency's division of nuclear power, told Reuters: "We are permanently reducing the prospects for the year 2000 from year to year."

A report by the Worldwatch Institute, a private group funded in part by the United Nations, says the economic viability of nuclear power has declined steadily over the past decade.

"In the past 10 years, nuclear construction costs have risen 60 per cent in France, more than doubled in West Germany and more than tripled in the United States," said Christopher Flavin, author of the report.

"Nowhere is nuclear power now economical compared with improved energy efficiency," he said.

Today there are 342 reactors operating in 25 countries, with a total capacity of 210,000 megawatts, and 175 plants are under construction, according to IAEA figures.

But new nuclear orders are thin on the ground. Last year, work started on only 14 new plants worldwide.

"There will be major problems for the industry in the second half of this decade because of lower orders," said Mr. Laue.

Many independent analysts believe that the industry may never

again see more than a handful of orders.

British Professor James Jeffery, who has carried out extensive research on the costs of nuclear power, told Reuters:

"I would expect very few new orders indeed, if any. Nuclear power still has a momentum and the Third World still has a few illusions about it, but I think they're rapidly fading."

In Europe, the industry has suffered a succession of blows.

Austria voted in a referendum in 1978 not to start up its only nuclear power station, 100 per cent built and never used.

Sweden's parliament voted in 1980 to close down all the country's nuclear reactors by 2010.

The Netherlands may be about to beat a similar retreat. An official commission recommended last month that no more nuclear power stations should be built.

Britain told its industry in 1979 to expect to build 10 new nuclear plants. But this programme never materialised and the country's troubled nuclear industry is now at the crossroads.

A marathon public inquiry is looking at whether to build the country's first U.S.-style pressurised water reactor.

The Central Electricity Generating Board, the state-owned utility, wants to switch to a U.S. design because British reactors have been fraught with delays and high costs.

One British gas-cooled plant, Dungeness B, is 13 years behind schedule. Britain has about 6,500 megawatts of nuclear power, with a similar amount under construction.

In West Germany, opposition to nuclear power has sparked some of the most violent mass demonstrations in recent years. But it has pushed through a stronger programme than Britain.

According to the industry, operating capacity is 11,500 megawatts. It says this will expand to about 24,500 megawatts in 1989 — about half of West Germany's original target.

About 21 per cent of West Germany's electricity now comes from nuclear power, compared with 16 per cent in Britain.

The country which has come closest to realising its nuclear ambitions of a decade ago is France, which now gets 50 per cent of its electricity from the atom.

The French appear set to become the only nation in the world truly to "go nuclear". They have 30 nuclear plants in operation and 28 more under construction. Yet the government has cut its construction plans because the electricity simply is not needed.

And the heavy building programme, which has provided 22,000 megawatts of nuclear capacity, has boosted the huge debt of

the state-run utility Electricite de France. This now stands at 178 billion French francs (\$20.8 billion).

In March next year France is due to start up the world's first, commercial fast breeder reactor, the controversial 1,200 megawatt superphenix. Breeder reactors are capable of producing large quantities of bomb-grade plutonium.

In the Soviet Union, official reports have made clear that the nuclear programme has been seriously delayed by problems at the key Atomenergoproekt, in southern European Russia.

According to Western reports, the 54 billion plant is slowly sinking because it is built near a man-made lake.

The Soviet Union originally aimed to supply as much as 25 per cent of its electricity through atomic power by 1990, but it is now expected to fall far short of this target.

Japan, despite the legacy of the 1945 atomic bombs, has one of the biggest nuclear programmes. Its 25 plants supply 16 per cent of electricity and 13 more plants are under way.

In the Third World, one pre-study programme after another has bitten the dust.

Mexico, in deep recession, gave the industry a very nasty jolt in 1982 when it scrapped a big 20,000 megawatt programme, one of the most ambitious in the world.

Brazil planned to have eight plants operating by 1990, but the programme has been repeatedly delayed and the country is now expected to have three plants by the end of the century.

For the future, the problems facing the world's nuclear industry are varied and formidable. Important uncounted costs may further tip the economic scales against nuclear power.

The Worldwatch report said: "Disposal of nuclear wastes and decommissioning old nuclear plants are important factors in the overall equation, and yet neither has been resolved or even adequately researched in any country."

A persistent concern is nuclear proliferation. Scientists say the world's civilian nuclear plants produce about 40 tonnes of plutonium each year, enough to make over 10,000 atomic bombs.

Nuclear critics such as Nobel prize-winning astronomer Sir Martin Ryle say new laser techniques make it easy to separate the plant's plutonium from the rest of the spent nuclear fuel.

Israel dramatically pointed up the proliferation controversy when it bombed an Iraqi reactor in 1981. Iraq said the plant was for peaceful purposes. Israel said it was to make nuclear bombs.

China revising Maoist commune system

By Michael Rank
Reuter

PEKING — China plans to dismantle the Maoist commune system by the end of the year under far-reaching agricultural reforms.

The changes are part of liberal economic reforms implemented in the last few years by paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping who has had considerable success in raising living standards of China's impoverished peasants.

The plan to do away with the communes is perhaps the most dramatic of the new initiatives, but diplomats believe other changes, including revision of the land tenure system, may be of even greater importance in China's struggle to

make its one billion people prosperous.

The late Chairman Mao Tse-tung launched the people's commune system in 1958 in an attempt to use manpower and willpower as efficiently as possible in view of a lack of machinery, and to strengthen state control over the individual.

"Setting up a people's commune is like going to heaven, the achievements of a single night surpass those of several millennia," according to a jingle popular when communes were first established, but peasants and officials soon discovered that things were more complicated.

Communes were found to be unwieldy and inflexible units, with thousands of people spread over

many villages, and which reduced the incentive for individuals to work hard.

In the early 1960s, Chairman Mao raised the number of communes from 24,000 to 74,000 by reducing their size, implicitly admitting that the system was far from perfect.

But it remained heresy for 20 years to question the fundamental concept of communes, and anybody who did so was likely to face a long sentence in a labour camp or even death.

Today the defects of the system are freely admitted. "With a uniform structure for the entire country, the commune tended to ignore the very divergent conditions in various regions," said the China Daily in an editorial last Dec-

ember.

Over-centralised in management and egalitarian in distribution, it could not but run counter to the essential principle of voluntary participation in any co-operative endeavour, the Daily said.

In theory, the communes will continue to exist as economic units, managing land contracts, water projects and social services, but in fact they are being replaced by townships as the centre of local government with villages as the next tier with households as the basic accounting unit.

Diplomats say the future of the commune is unclear, though they were likely to be abolished altogether in many areas.

Some experts attach greater

importance to the return of China's 35,000 supply and marketing co-operatives to collective ownership after being gradually taken over by the state since 1958.

Peasants are now being encouraged to buy shares in the co-operatives, at two to five yuan (\$1 to 2.40), a share, an idea that would have shocked Mao.

Shares issued in the 1950s were later confiscated as "capitalist", but 360 million yuan (\$170 million) worth have recently been returned to their original owners.

More than 80 per cent of peasant families are reported to be members of these co-operatives, which are handling an increasing share of agricultural output and equipment.

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Neal scores late winner to keep Liverpool ahead

LONDON (R) — England defender Phil Neal snatched a late winner to keep Liverpool out in front in the race for the English Soccer Championship on Saturday.

Neal popped up 12 minutes from time to clinch Liverpool's vital 2-1 win over Arsenal at Anfield to maintain their three point lead of the first division.

But it was a close-run thing for the League leaders, bidding for their seventh title in nine seasons, with second-placed Nottingham Forest securing their fifth successive away win to stay hard on their heels.

Forest battled hard for a 1-0 win at fifth-placed Queens Park Rangers — Gary Birtles snatching their winner four minutes before halftime — as the former European Champions opened up a two point lead over third-placed West Ham, 2-1 winners at Coventry.

Manchester United, who visit Luton today, Sunday, and long considered Liverpool's main rivals for the championship, have slipped to fourth but are now seven points adrift of the leaders with one game in hand.

Arsenal seemed set to pay the full price for Liverpool's midweek humiliation by third division Walsall in the League Cup when Alan Kennedy headed them ahead after 12 minutes.

But England midfielder Graham Rix levelled for the Londoners in the fourth minute of injury time before the interval when he forced home Brian Talbot's right wing cross.

Arsenal looked capable of holding out for a point before full-back Neal grabbed the winner to keep Liverpool on course for a record 15th championship.

Brian Clough's Forest reaffirmed their arrival as Liverpool's main challengers for the first division honours by landing their seventh win in nine League games.

Birtles connected with a Steve Hodge cross after 41 minutes to send a perfect glancing header past Rangers' goalkeeper Peter Hucker. After that they rarely looked troubled.

West Ham, with seven first team members missing through injury, went ahead after 18 minutes against Coventry when Dave Bamber put through his own goal. Tony Cottee added a second in the 75th before Steve Hunt pulled a goal back for the home side in the dying minutes.

West Ham's London rivals Tottenham had Scottish striker Steve Archibald to thank for their win over struggling Leicester.

Tottenham raced to a 2-0 lead in little more than half an hour when Mark Falco, who scored his 14th goal of the season, and Tony Galvin both found the net.

But Gary Lineker inspired Leicester's revival with goals after 37 and 72 minutes before Archibald fired the winner six minutes from time.

Trevor Christie and Nigel Cal-

laghan grabbed two goals apiece as Notts County and Watford fought out an eight goal thriller.

County looked well on the road to three points when Rachid Har-kouk and Christie shot them 2-0 up inside 10 minutes. But midfielder Kenny Jackett and Callaghan hauled Watford 3-2 in front by halftime.

George Reilly put Watford further in front a minute after the break before Christie reduced the deficit for County. Young Scottish striker Maurice Johnston clinched Watford's 5-3 win in the 82nd minute.

Aberdeen kept their six-point lead in the Scottish Premier Division by beating bottom side Motherwell 4-0 in a match interrupted in the first half by crowd trouble.

Trouble flared when fighting fans spilled onto the pitch. The players were taken off for six minutes while police restored order.

Scotland midfielder Gordon Strachan netted after 38 minutes and added a second early in the second half. Eric Black and John Hewitt completed Aberdeen's victory.

Second-placed Celtic cruised to a 5-2 victory over St. Johnstone. Two goals from Brian McCair and one from Murdoch McLeod sent Celtic in 3-0 up at halftime before Frank McGarvey scored a fourth.

Gordon Scott and Raymond Blair reduced the deficit for St. Johnstone with McLeod netting Celtic's fifth in between.

Goals from Paul Hegarty and Maurice Malpas secured champions Dundee United's 2-0 win over Hibernian.

Australia, West Indies tie in World Series Cricket Cup

MELBOURNE (R) — Australia and the West Indies tied in a dramatic World Series Cricket Cup final match here Saturday after Australian Carl Rackemann was run out off the last ball.

With one run required to beat the West Indies' total of 222 for five off their 50 overs, Australian tailender Geoff Lawson missed a Joel Garner delivery and Rackemann was run out by wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon trying for the winning run.

Australia finished tied with the West Indies on 222 for nine and the result means the teams will play a further match on Sunday for the cup.

Officials decided late Saturday night that if Australia, who lost the first match in the best-of-three final, win Sunday, the World Series Cup and \$28,000 prize money will be shared.

The West Indies began in typically flamboyant fashion Saturday with Richard Gabriel and Desmond Haynes putting on 33

for the first wicket. Gabriel was caught by Steve Smith off Rackemann for 19 then in the 17th over, with the score 54, Haynes was brilliantly caught by Tom Hogan at square leg off left-arm spinner Allan Border.

Richie Robinson and Viv Richards took the score to 116 before Richardson was caught behind by wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh off Lawson for 43.

Richards, dropped by Kepler Wessels on seven, played a crucial innings of 59 off 70 balls including five boundaries and Larry Gomes (25 not out) and Jeff Dujon (33 not out) added 49 in an unbeaten sixth-wicket partnership.

Australia, hampered in their run chase by the absence of Steve Smith who dislocated a shoulder while fielding, got away to a sound start when Wessels and Dean Jones added 23 for the first wicket.

Jones fell to pace bowler Michael Holding when he was caught

behind by Dujon for 12, then Wessels and captain Kim Hughes put Australia on top with a 109-run partnership for the second wicket.

Fast bowler Malcolm Marshall trapped Hughes lbw for 53 and Wessels fell soon after for 77 as the West Indians fought back.

The middle-order pairing collapsed with Allan Border going for 14, Greg Ritchie for four and Marsh for 16 but Geoff Lawson struck out well to keep the Australians in the match and with one over to go they required 11 to win.

Rodney Hogg scored a single off the first ball and Lawson smashed a four through the covers off Garner's next delivery.

Lawson tried to take two runs off the third ball and Hogg was run out after a fine return from mid-boundary by Marshall.

Rackemann joined Lawson, who lashed out again for three runs, then Rackemann dabbed a single towards mid-off to tie the scores.

Soviets outclassed by East German bobs

SARAJEVO (R) — East German crews sped free from the 'hammerhead' Soviet sleds and netted gold and silver in the two-man bobs at the weather-hit Winter Olympics Saturday.

With the alpine skiing elite again absent from the slopes the focus of attention switched to the snow-slicked Trebevic run, battleground of the bobmen.

And the big crowd were not disappointed as they saw the revolutionary Soviet sleds, which were tipped to take the Games by storm, outclassed by the sleek blue craft from East Germany.

Driver Wolfgang Hoppe and brakeman Dietmar Schauerhammer shot down the trench in record time followed by compatriots Bernhard Lehmann and Bogdan Musiol.

Zintis Exmanis and Vladimir Alexandrov had to settle for bronze in the 'hammerhead'.

Ski officials may waive the rules in a bid to run the men's downhill on Sunday.

A three-day blizzard on the Mount Bjelasnica course has kept the speed specialists indoors, leaving organisers determined for action Sunday.

International Ski Federation regulations require at least one practice run within two days of a race but that page in the rule book may not now be opened.

The situation on Mount Jahorina, venue for the women's skiing, was no better. Training was impossible again Saturday but the Monday race date stays for the

moment.

If the men are unable to race again Sunday, the organisers could opt for both downhill on the same day or reshuffle the entire alpine programme. Eight days remain before the Games end.

West Germany made their first mark on the medals table when Peter Angerer shot the straightest and skied the fastest to win the 20km biathlon.

World Cup-holder Angerer missed only two of the 20 targets and finished ahead of East German Frank-Peter Roetsch. Eirik Kvafoss of Norway took the bronze.

Bubka breaks own pole vault record

LOS ANGELES (R) — Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union broke his own world indoor pole vault record when he cleared 19 feet 1 1/4 inches (5.83 metres) at the 25th Los Angeles Games Friday night.

The leap, beating the old record of 19 feet 1 inch (5.82 metres) which Bubka established in Milan last month, also equalled the outdoor world record set in Rome last year by Thierry Vigneron of France.

American Billy Olson, the previous indoor world record holder, finished second to Bubka with a clearance of 19 feet 1/4 inch (5.81 metres).

Two other Soviet athletes won events. World record-holder Tamara Bykova took the women's high jump with a leap of six feet 4 3/4 inches (1.95 metres) and Lyubov Gurina won the women's 880 yards in two minutes 1.8 seconds.

The Russian team narrowly missed a fourth victory in the men's high jump. Gennadiy Avdeyenko and American Jimmy Howard both jumped seven feet five inches (2.26 metres) but Howard won on a countback of failures.

American winners included Emmitt King, first in the men's 60 yards in 6.12 seconds, Tom Byers, who won the mile in 3:57.4.

Two key Pakistani cricket officials resign

KARACHI (R) — Two key officials of the crisis-hit Pakistan Cricket Control Board (BCCP) offered their resignations Saturday a week after Board President Nur Khan announced he was standing down.

Nur Khan, who has yet to hand over charge to his successor, Major General Saifur Butt, told reporters he had accepted the resignation of BCCP Secretary Arif Abbasi.

But he said the resignation of the other official, treasurer Mohammad Daud, had been sent to the country's president, Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, who had named him for the post in his capacity as BCCP's official patron.

However, the two officials, whose reasons for wanting to resign were not immediately known, would be available to Butt for the time being, he said.

Pakistan cricket has lost a number of leading figures in the past week.

Nur Khan resigned as BCCP president last Sunday in the wake of a controversy over his role in the selection of the Pakistan team to beat 2-0 in the recent five-test series in Australia.

Then Pakistan's team manager Imtiaz Khan resigned soon after the team returned from Australia for personal reasons and veteran wicketkeeper Wasim Bari announced his retirement.

All this followed the decision by Imran Khan, who led the side to Australia, not to play in the forthcoming three-test home series against England.

Nur Khan said Butt had called a meeting of the BCCP council in Lahore next Monday to name a new captain and a selection committee to pick the side to play England.

The BCCP is shifting secretariat from Karachi to Lahore where Butt is based as chairman of Pakistan's water and power development.

N.Zealand consolidates lead against Australia

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — Centuries from John Wright and Jeff Crowe consolidated New Zealand's grip on the third cricket test here Saturday as the home side battled throughout the second day to reach 354 for six in their first innings.

New Zealand need only to draw the match to win their first-ever series against England after their second test victory in Christchurch.

England, badly needing an early breakthrough Saturday, were thwarted by both the weather and the resolute batting of Wright and Crowe.

Overnight thunderstorms and early bad light delayed the start of play by 70 minutes and when New Zealand resumed at 140 for three it was quickly apparent that the pitch was not going to give any help to the England bowlers.

Wright and Crowe were able to play the five-man England attack off the front foot with the ball rarely deviating and they went on to add 154 for the fourth wicket, a record for New Zealand against England.

Wright completed his third test century and first against England after five and a half hours before falling to a tired shot when he was bowled by England captain Bob Willis for 130.

Jeremy Coney and Richard Hadlee, New Zealand's heroes of the first and second test respectively, went cheaply but Crowe continued to apply maximum concentration and reached his first hundred in seven tests after 302 minutes and 214 balls.

Crowe, who was unbeaten on 115, found a willing partner in

wicketkeeper Ian Smith who again looked an assured and competent batsman as he stroked his way to 26 not out at the close of play.

The England bowlers bowled tightly but were able to make little impression.

Willis finished with the best figures of three for 86 but his fellow fast bowler Norman Cowans, who was two for 63 off 27 overs, looked the pick of the attack.

WBC says Spinks must fight 12 rounds

MEXICO CITY (R) — Michael Spinks will lose the World Boxing Council (WBC) version of his undisputed light-heavyweight title if he fights fellow-American Eddie Davis over 15 rounds, the WBC said in a statement here.

Spinks, who holds both the WBC and World Boxing Association (WBA) versions of the title, is due to fight Davis in Atlantic City on February 25. There is a move to have the fight staged over 15 rounds.

The WBC said it had an agreement with the WBA that the next two light-heavyweight title fights should be over 12 rounds, the WBC fights for championship fights. WBA title bouts are over 15 rounds.

If Spinks and Davis did fight over 15 rounds, the WBC said it would match Davis against Dwight Muhammad Qawi of the United States to find a new champion.

Connors beats Buehning in Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Top-seeded Jimmy Connors earned a semifinal berth alongside Ben Testerman with a 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) victory over Fritz Buehning Friday night in the \$315,000 U.S. National Indoor Tennis Tournament.

Earlier Friday, Testerman added eighth-seeded Tim Mayotte to his list of upset victims with a convincing 6-4, 6-2 quarterfinal victory and Henri Leconte came back after dropping the opening set toward off Wojtek Fibak, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Connors broke Buehning in the eighth game of the first set to go up 5-3 and then saved four break points before earning the set when a Buehning lob fell wide.

Buehning broke Connors' serve in the fourth game of the second set with a line-hugging return of service and then salvaged three

break points in the seventh game to lead 5-2.

But Connors, trailing 5-3, battled back and broke Buehning at love to set the stage for the tie-breaker.

Three unforced errors by Buehning, including a long return of Connors' serve on the deciding point, helped the six-time U.S. National Indoor Champion move into the semifinal round.

"Buehning got me into my game tonight. I was moving a lot better and jumping on my returns," said Connors, who played his third tie-breaker in three matches.

"I was serving well at the first of the match, but I just couldn't keep it up," said Buehning, who had six aces in the first set but only two in the second set.

Testerman, who earned his tournament berth by battling through

the qualifying rounds, kept Mayotte off balance throughout the match with a thundering serve and an impressive array of passing shots.

Mayotte lost his serve in the third game of the opening set and, after serving out the set, Testerman broke Mayotte again to win the second set with a quick passing shot to the 1981 NCAA singles champion's backhand side.

"I don't think Tim played as well as he can. He didn't get a lot of his first serves in, so he had to stay back and then I had the advantage," Testerman said of the 76-minute match.

Mayotte admitted to being off-balance.

"I didn't do the things I should do well. I didn't serve well and I didn't return well," he said. "Ben was much more aggressive than me."

Both Leconte and Fibak had problems holding serve after splitting the first two sets.

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Moscow prepares for Andropov's funeral

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet leadership faces the task of selecting a new Communist Party chief for the second time in 15 months, while Moscow and the rest of the nation goes into mourning Saturday for the late President Yuri Andropov.

Workers began draping Moscow with funeral bunting and black-trimmed, red hammer-and-sickle flags Friday evening after the official notice of Andropov's death from complications caused by diabetes and kidney failure was issued through the official media.

Flags flew at half-staff in the bitter winter wind over the Kremlin ramparts, at whose base Mr. Andropov's body will be interred on Tuesday beneath the hallowed cobblestones of Red Square—the symbolic centre of Soviet power.

The colonnaded House of Unions was prepared for the bier containing Mr. Andropov's body, which will lie in state during the first three days of national mourning.

On the fourth day, Tuesday, the entire nation will observe five minutes of silence accompanied by a three-minute blast of every train, ship and factory whistle in the world's largest nation.

Mr. Andropov died at 4:50 p.m. Thursday (13:50 GMT), ending a

prolonged illness that reportedly left him ruling the country from his sickbed and leaving the Soviet Union without a leader for the second time in little more than a year. He would have turned 70 in June.

Mr. Andropov had come to power as general secretary of the Communist Party two days after the Nov. 10, 1982, death of Leonid Brezhnev. Last June he assumed the post of president, or nominal head of state.

As funeral preparations began, the question of who would succeed the 69-year-old former KGB chief was unsettled.

There also was no way to predict the future course of Soviet policy, one of the most important factors in shaping the face of the modern world. But few people expected any radical or swift changes from the conservative and slow-moving Kremlin.

One of the first signs Kremlin-watchers were waiting for was the announcement of who would head the funeral commission, a post

that in the past has gone to the man tabbed to succeed a deceased party chief or other major official.

Mr. Andropov directed Mr. Brezhnev's funeral and quickly assumed power in the party, but Friday's announcement left unclear whether the succession had been settled.

TASS said the funeral commission would be headed by Konstantin Chernenko, the 72-year-old party ideologist who by right of protocol is the senior party secretary after the incumbent general secretary.

It is risky to make flat predictions about the shadowy workings of the Soviet politburo, but few outsiders expected Mr. Chernenko to be named general secretary.

It seemed more likely that the question of a successor had not been decided, or that if one had been picked, he was chosen from among the younger politburo members. In both cases, the job of funeral commission chief would naturally fall to Mr. Chernenko, who led the procession of politburo members at the Nov. 7 Revolution Day parade when Mr. Andropov was too sick to appear.

"The choice, if it has been made, may be a man who does not have the personal power, standing and seniority that Mr. Andropov enjoyed and therefore cannot



Yuri Andropov

usurp protocol by heading the funeral commission," one Western diplomat speculated.

Among the strong contenders listed by Western analysts among younger members are Grigory Romanov, the 61-year-old head of the party discipline committee, and Mikhail Gorbachev, 52, who assumed important domestic and foreign policy roles under Mr. Andropov.

Both are members of the central committee secretariat, in the past a prerequisite to become general secretary. Mr. Chernenko is the only other party secretary on the politburo.

Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov is expected to play a large role in the succession stakes through his position as head of the powerful armed forces and bec-

ause of his reported role as day-to-day politburo chief when Andropov was at his sickest in recent months.

Marshal Ustinov is said to have been instrumental in Mr. Andropov's rise. But at 75 he doesn't seem to be a likely candidate for general secretary.

None of the other newly prominent or young politburo members like 70-year-old Mikhail Solomentsev, 60-year-old Gaidar Aliev and 57-year-old Vitaly Vorotnikov, is on the secretariat.

Mr. Solomentsev may be considered too old unless the Kremlin opts for an interim leadership. Mr. Aliev's Muslim heritage is considered a serious handicap and Vorotnikov, who only became a full politburo member in December, is seen as being too fresh.

U.S. hopes to improve relations with Soviets

By Larry Schweid
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States, offering to work with the Soviet Union "to make the world a safer place," is trying to take the chill out of superpower relations in the aftermath of the death of Yuri Andropov.

Calling for a resumption of stalled arms control talks, Secretary of State George Shultz spoke of reducing the risks of war by engaging the new Kremlin leadership in "a constructive and realistic dialogue."

The statement by Mr. Shultz on Friday also contained a challenge to the new leadership "to respond in kind" to the American pledge to "work to build a more stable and more positive relationship."

President Ronald Reagan, in a personal message of "condolences

"evil empire."

Despite calls by Mr. Reagan and Shultz for warmer relations, many other officials or former officials were voicing little optimism. Deployment of new U.S. missiles in Western Europe is proceeding on schedule. The Soviets, meanwhile, are moving new weapons into Eastern Europe.

With the nuclear weapons limitation talks deadlocked, the superpowers are going ahead with the development of new missiles and bombers. Mr. Reagan last week asked Congress for a record \$350 billion for defence.

The Reagan administration has ruled out making concessions to encourage a Soviet return to the bargaining table in Geneva.

At the same time, the Soviets continue to pour arms into Syria for its campaign against the Lebanese government—an action that has drawn a prolonged, harsh response from the Reagan administration.

One major exception to the chilled relationship is the projected sale of 22 million tons of American wheat and corn to the Soviet Union this year.

Also, negotiations are due to resume next month in Vienna to reduce NATO and Warsaw Pact conventional forces in Central Europe.

"I wouldn't expect the Kremlin's military policy to change at all" following Mr. Andropov's death, said Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Perle, who is in charge of international security policy at the Pentagon.

Mr. Perle added: "The Soviet general staff is pretty much in charge of military policy and that will continue."

However, reflecting a widespread view in the administration, he said the "paralysis" on the Soviet side in the arms talks may have been due in part to Mr. Andropov's lingering illness. This theory holds that other Kremlin officials were reluctant to take on the responsibility of making major shifts in position.

NEWS ANALYSIS

and sympathies" from his California ranch, also expressed hope for "genuine co-operation with the Soviet Union to make the world better."

The president's letter to the Soviets was similar to one he sent to Moscow 15 months ago after President Leonid Brezhnev's death, but U.S. and Soviet policies subsequently deepened the chill that had developed between the two governments.

Their sharp decline was accelerated in September when the Soviets shot down a South Korean commercial jetliner with 269 passengers. Talks to limit nuclear missiles in Europe were suspended in late November and parallel discussions on strategic weapons ground to a halt in early December.

The Soviets apparently had concluded they could not expect a major shift in U.S. policy under Mr. Reagan, who had condemned their government last year as an

Challenger completes space 'round trip'

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — The space shuttle Challenger landed at the Kennedy Space Centre Saturday, completing the first real "round trip" into space.

The 11-tonne winged orbiter became the first spaceship to return from space to its original launching site when it touched down at 7:16 a.m. (12:16 GMT), right on time.

"Okay, Houston. The wheels have stopped," Challenger reported after a perfect landing just after dawn.

All other space missions—American and Soviet—had ended in remote areas far away from where they began. Nine previous shuttle flights ended with landings at desert runways far from populated areas.

The successful landing was a major accomplishment of a mission which had its share of setbacks, including the loss of two \$30-million communications satellites.

Overall, however, the shuttle and its five-man crew worked very well during the eight-day mission—especially when two astronauts flew new rocket backpacks which made them self-guided human satellites.

Cosmonauts arrive at Salyut-7 space station

MOSCOW (R) — Three Soviet cosmonauts were Friday settling in aboard the Salyut-7 orbital space station which is expected to be their home and workplace for several months.

Spacemen Leonid Kizim, 42, Vladimir Solovov, 37, and Oleg Atkov, 34, docked their Soyuz 7-10 spacecraft with the Salyut-7 station Thursday and transferred to the station soon after, the Official News Agency TASS reported.

They blasted off from Baikonur in Central Asia on Wednesday to begin the latest stage in the Soviet Union's programme to develop permanently-manned orbital complexes.

Thursday night, the main television news broadcast the first shots of the men inside Salyut-7.

Nigerian government makes new allegation of corruption

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military government has made sweeping new allegations of corruption against politicians ousted in the New Year's Eve coup, accusing them of stealing millions of naira (dollars) while in office.

It also announced plans to shoot convicted armed robbers in an attempt to improve security and threatened action against newspapers giving too much publicity to the statements of politicians who fled abroad.

The corruption allegations were revealed in newspapers Saturday after a briefing for Nigerian media executives Friday by Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, who ranks second in the new military government.

Brig. Idiagbon said three former state governors had admitted taking kick-backs totalling 2.8 million naira (\$3.7 million) from a single contract and that another had opened bank accounts in false names in which he had deposited more than three million naira (\$4 million).

He also alleged that a powerful figure in the now banned party of ousted President Shehu Shagari had deposited more than 15 million naira (\$20 million) in a Lagos

bank in the name of an American nominee company. The man accused fled abroad after the coup.

Another former state governor is alleged to have operated two companies abroad and had \$2.8 million in their accounts overseas. In Nigeria, public officials are not permitted to have foreign bank accounts.

Brig. Idiagbon promised further revelations on corruption in Mr. Shagari's civilian government as investigations progressed. He said 282 people were detained in 14 of Nigeria's 19 states, with the count still to come in from the five others.

More than 80 of those detained are being held in the maximum security wing of Kiri Kiriri Prison in Lagos. They include former Vice-President Alex Ekwueme, former Biafran leader Emeka Ojukwu, 18 former state governors and several former ministers.

The majority of those in detention are expected to face military tribunals to be set up soon to hear evidence of their alleged corruption. The tribunals will recommend sentences to the Supreme Military Council, the country's ruling body.

COLUMN

'Supermac' accepts peerage

LONDON (R) — Former Prime Minister Harold MacMillan, grand old man of British politics, celebrated his 90th birthday by accepting an hereditary peerage after years of declining all honours. Mr. MacMillan, the conservative leader who revived Britain's battered image after the ill-starred Suez invasion in 1956, is the first person to be named as earl in 21 years. He is also the first hereditary peer named since Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher revived the practice last year who will not take his title to the grave. MacMillan, who led Britain during economically golden years from 1957 to 1963, was celebrating his birthday quietly at his home at Birch Grove, southern England, an aide said. The timing of his acceptance of an earldom, fifth in the hierarchy of Britain's peerage, recalled a flair for showmanship that earned him the nickname "Supermac".

Farmer wins Irish mansion

CASTLETOWN-GEORGHEGAN, Ireland (R) — An English farmer won what was claimed to be the biggest raffle prize ever, a magnificent 30-room Georgian mansion standing on 400 acres (160 hectares) of lush Irish countryside. The lucky ticket, one of 9,000 costing \$275 each, was drawn from a large metal drum by Ireland's best-known racing commentator, Michael O'Hehir, in the ornate lobby of the house, Middleton Park. The raffle left owner Barney Curley, a professional gambler and racing enthusiast, richer by more than \$2 million, a sum he said he would have been hard pushed to raise through a direct sale. To conform with Irish betting laws all participants in what was described as a private limited subscribers' draw had to join the Irish Gaelic Sports Association and answer six questions correctly.

Avalanches kill 19 people

CHUR, Switzerland (R) — At least 19 people were killed and several were missing after heavy snows and avalanches wrought havoc in the Swiss and Austrian Alps, police said. In Ravelstein in the eastern Swiss canton of Graubünden, where 1.5 metres of snow fell, an avalanche enveloped two houses, killing three sisters aged between 16 and 19 in one and a 57-year-old man in the other. Two avalanches also hit the nearby area of Disentis, killing a local ski instructor. Two people were reported missing. A 75-year-old man died after an avalanche struck the village of Meien in the central region of Uri. The popular ski resorts of Les Diablerets and Zermatt have been cut off. Most of the avalanches on the Austrian side of the border occurred west of the Tyrolean town of Innsbruck, frequented by thousands of foreign tourists in winter. The worst accident was a St. Anton, where six buses were swept away by snow and wrecked. Tiny Vorarlberg province between Tirol and the Swiss border was effectively closed to road traffic from Tirol, police said.

New planetary system being formed

ITHACA, New York (R) — A new planetary system, not unlike the earth's solar system, might be forming around a star 500 light years away from the sun, a team of U.S. astronomers said. The team, using the world's largest telescopes, said they had detected a cloud of small, solid particles whose combined mass roughly equals that of the earth surrounding a recently formed star in the constellation Taurus.

70 people die of dysentery

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — Seventy people have died of dysentery since November in an outbreak of the intestinal disease in the Sumbawanga district of southern Tanzania, the Daily News reported Friday. The government-owned newspaper said two health officers and a specialist from the World Health Organisation were in the area to try to curb the disease, generally contracted by drinking unclean water.

World leaders express regrets, hopes for new era

NEW YORK (AP) — The death of Soviet Leader Yuri Andropov evoked sympathy from world leaders Friday along with hopes of a renewed push for better East-West relations from the new Soviet leadership.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, extending condolences to the Soviet people, said President Ronald Reagan is eager for a "constructive and realistic dialogue" with the Kremlin's new leaders and said a decision on whether Mr. Reagan attends Mr. Andropov's funeral Tuesday depends on Soviet arrangements.

In East European countries, somber music filled the officially controlled airwaves and leaders expressed "grief and shock." But in Poland there were some smiles and sardonic comments.

China reported the death with-

hout comment, while leaders of Japan and other Asian nations immediately expressed sorrow over Mr. Andropov's demise and called on Soviet leaders to strive for world peace.

Syria, the Soviet Union's closest ally in the Middle East, declared seven days of official mourning.

Vatican officials said Pope John Paul II was immediately informed of the death announcement, but no statement was issued by the pontiff. The Vatican's daily newspaper said Moscow's diplomacy under Mr. Andropov "made no significant progress in the face of international crises."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher made known her regret at Mr. Andropov's death, and there was speculation she might attend the funeral in the hope of meeting the Kremlin lea-

dership.

French President Francois Mitterrand said Mr. Andropov "could have been a stabilising factor. He was a man of great authority with deep knowledge of many issues."

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said he planned to attend Mr. Andropov's funeral. He said "the extensive talks I held with the deceased in Moscow in July 1983 will remain in my mind as an important contribution for the necessary continuation of political dialogue between East and West, also in difficult times."

Maurice Koivisto, president of Finland which follows a neutral course between East and West, called Mr. Andropov "a great statesman and peace builder."

The centre-right Dutch government and the Swedish Socialist government also hoped Mr. Andropov's successor would re-open a dialogue on arms reduction and détente.

In Geneva, flags at United Nations headquarters were lowered. Swiss President Leon Schlumpf said that in his brief term, Mr. Andropov had exerted "decisive influence on the fate of his country."

Greek Premier Andreas Papandreou called the death "a great loss to the Soviet people," but expected "only a short period of

mourning for the changeover of leader, because the world situation at present is very tense."

Socialist Premier Bettino Craxi of Italy said Mr. Andropov died at "a particularly difficult moment" in international relations. In a cable to Moscow, he urged "the greatest effort of reciprocal understanding for the prompt resumption of a real and efficient dialogue of peace and collaboration."

Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe said: "We think there will not be a major, sudden change in the Soviet Union's domestic or international policies."

In Czechoslovakia, one of the most loyal Soviet allies, black banners festooned public buildings in the national capital, just hours after the official death announcement on radio at 11:45 GMT.

East Germany's politburo convened in special session to commemorate Mr. Andropov, the official ADN News Agency said.

Romania, the most independent Soviet Bloc nation, was the last to report the death, in a radio announcement topping its regular newscast at 14:00 GMT. The item was followed by a short funeral march before regular broadcasting resumed.

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, leader of the 101-nation

Non-Aligned Movement, called Mr. Andropov "a statesman of high stature," she said he "did much to promote and expand Indo-Soviet friendship. We have lost a true friend."

China announced Mr. Andropov's death to its one billion people about 30 minutes after it was reported from Moscow. No commentary accompanied any of the print or broadcast reports, and, by contrast, a tennis story that moved on the Xinhua wire a few minutes later was nearly three times as long as the four-paragraph story about the Soviet leader's death.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, visiting China as part of a 17-day Asian tour, expressed sympathy Friday upon learning that Mr. Andropov was dead and said he hoped the Kremlin successor would promote East-West peace.

President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines mourned the death of Mr. Andropov, saying he shall be remembered for his "firm and steady pursuit of a policy of peace."

And in Central America, the leader of the Sandinista junta here said Nicaraguans were "intensely sorry because comrade Andropov was a great friend of the Nicaraguan people."

Bush to head delegation to Moscow

SANTA BARBARA, California (AP) — President Ronald Reagan, expressing "condolences and sympathies" to the Soviet Union over the death of Yuri Andropov, decided Friday not to fly to Moscow for the state funeral but to send Vice President George Bush as head of the American delegation.

There had been many calls on Capitol Hill for Mr. Reagan to attend the funeral as a dramatic gesture to thaw U.S.-Soviet relations. Shortly after the announcement of Mr. Andropov's death, administration officials originally said it was highly unlikely that Mr. Reagan would attend but suggested that he might make the trip if a successor to Mr. Andropov were named quickly.

Late Friday it was announced that Mr. Bush would head the delegation and that Mr. Reagan, scheduled to hold meetings in Was-

hington next week with Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, would remain in the United States.

One administration official, who declined to be identified by name, said the meetings with King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak were "very important to us" and would be "a factor" in determining who attended the funeral.

Deputy White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes said Mr. Reagan had asked Mr. Bush to be his "personal representative" to Tuesday's funeral, and while in Moscow "to extend the condolences and best wishes of the American people to the people of the Soviet Union and to express to them our strong desire for peace."

A White House official, speaking on the condition he remain anonymous, said it was not normal practice for an American president to attend a state funeral.

"I don't know of one (American President) who has gone to a Soviet leader's funeral," the official said.

The official said the rest of the U.S. delegation, probably two more people, may be announced Saturday. He said Secretary of State George Shultz probably would not be among them.

Meanwhile, from his ranch in the Santa Ynez Mountains, Mr. Reagan sent a message of condolence to the acting Soviet chief of state, Vasily Kuznetsov.

Mr. Speakes described the message as personal and said Mr. Reagan expressed his "condolences and sympathies."

Mr. Reagan also expressed the "deep and heartfelt desire of the American people for world peace," and said he hoped for "genuine co-operation with the Soviet Union to make the world better."

India executes Kashmiri separatist

NEW DELHI (AP) — A leading Kashmiri separatist who once declared, "nobody has the rope which could hang me," was executed by hanging Saturday, despite 11th hour pleas and protests.

"Mohammad Maqbool Butt was absolutely calm and walked straight," India's Inspector General of Prisons S. Suthi, told reporters assembled outside the capital's main Tihar Jail.

The release of Mr. Butt, 50, founder of the Kashmir Liberation Front, had been demanded by Kashmiri terrorists who kidnapped and assassinated an Indian diplomat in Birmingham, England, last weekend.

No protests or violence were reported in New Delhi where

hundreds of police and paramilitary troops blockaded access to the prison. Reporters were allowed to enter.

"He has been executed at 7:30 a.m. (02:00 GMT) as per the execution warrant," spokesman Sethi said.

He said Mr. Butt, convicted of two murders in Kashmir, solemnly washed, prayed and took his last meal in his cell Saturday morning. He had no final words or last requests.

Mr. Butt broke into laughter Friday after he learned that his appeal for a stay for execution had been turned down by the Indian Supreme Court.

Inspector Sethi said the body was kept hanging for 30 minutes,

according to practice, and the execution was carried out by two hangers. A doctor, the jail superintendent and two magistrates were present, he said.

The execution took place under tightest security and all access to the prison was blocked to keep demonstrators or Kashmiri terrorists away. Reporters were screened but allowed inside the gates to receive the execution statement.

Police have tightened security around New Delhi. And no incidents were reported.

The inspector said the body has not been claimed but Mr. Butt's lawyer, Romesh Pathak, had been trying to retrieve it.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 8752 ♥ KQJ832 ♦ K107
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 3 ♦ 4 ♠ ?

What action do you take?
A.—At any vulnerability, you would want to compete—indeed, you might even make five diamonds. However, that is not what you should bid—you should prepare to defend against a higher spade contract by now making the lead-directing bid of five clubs.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A10 ♦ KQJ93 ♣ AQ872
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♥ 2 ♦ 2 ♥ Pass
Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—If you treated this hand as a two-suiter and now bid your clubs, you are on the wrong track. Although partner is weak, he might have long spades, and that could be your best strain. Double—since partner has not bid, that is still for takeout. And since you didn't double in the first place, partner should realize that you have minor-suit length and no more than three spades.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 954 ♥ 82 ♦ J10762 ♣ Q53
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Double Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—If you elected to pass, you show a reckless disregard for your financial well-being—you have no reason to suppose you can stop West from making overtricks at one diamond doubled. Partner asked you to bid your long suit, so oblige. Bid one spade.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 954 ♥ 82 ♦ J10762 ♣ Q53
The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South
1 ♠ Double Pass 1 ♠
Pass 2 ♦ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—Partner liked your one spade response. He has now cue-bid the enemy suit. You would like to pass, but you can't do that. You must find some bid that will discourage partner. To bid no trump or to show a new suit now would not do the trick. The best you can do is rebid two spades. Don't think of it as bidding a three-card suit twice; rather look at it as twice giving partner minimum raises in his suit in a forcing situation.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ JQ6 ♥ AQ1054 ♦ 93 ♣ 876
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—Considering partner's jump rebid, even though it was in his own suit, you probably have enough for game, but where do you want to play the hand? If partner has three-card heart support, four hearts is probably the best spot. If he does not and if he has a club stopper, three no trump is probably right. You can find out by showing your spade stopper now—bid three spades, and wait to hear what partner does.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 92 ♥ AJ872 ♦ A106 ♣ 752
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Double Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—If you responded only one heart, may we recommend a good book on defensive bidding? Your hand is easily worth 10 points at a heart contract, and that is too strong for a simple takeout. Jump to two hearts—in response to a takeout double, that is invitational, not forcing.